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News worth sharing.

From Japan with love

Veteran PETA animal rescuer Ashley Fruno returns to her parents' home in Cloverdale with an abandoned dachshund rescued from earthquake- and tsunami-ravished Japan {page 8}

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/FOR METRO

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Local

Lesson learned for Liberals

Province seeks alternatives to rejected mega-casino project
Minister looking to take more collaborative approach with city {page 3}

Death threat drama

Get your music off the web or else, Rebecca Black warned {page 33}

Smells like team spirit

Canuck fans' parody of Cee Lo Green hit Forget You goes viral {page 10}

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High. Time

▶ Thousands of people smoke up en masse outside the Vancouver Art Gallery yesterday at 4:20 p.m.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO

It's all gone to pot

The annual 4/20 rally attracted more than 10,000 people. The rally lasted all day and included vendors, live music and speeches.

Province humbled by mega-casino vote

Province is eager to explore options after mega-casino voted down by Vancouver city council ◐ NDP says B.C. Place development plans need to be more transparent

MATT KIELTYKA
@METRONEWS.CA

There will be no more surprise announcements as the province starts looking for alternatives to the doomed mega-casino at B.C. Place.

As Vancouver city council killed the casino portion of the $500-million proposed development on Tuesday, several councillors lashed out against the provincial government for springing the project on them with no consultation.

Jobs, Tourism and Innovation Minister Pat Bell said the province won't make the same mistake again as it explores alternatives.

"I think we want to take a more collaborative approach with the city to make sure whatever goes in place of this piece of property fulfils the vision Vancouverites and British Columbians have for it," Bell said.

NDP critic Spencer Chandra-Herbert said the province's attempt to force the expanded Edgewater Casino through the city was a huge "blunder."

"They tried to force it down the city's throat ... (Council's vote) was a message the province can't treat cities or people like that."
NDP CRITIC SPENCER CHANDRA-HERBERT

1 news

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2 Use your smartphone to scan 2D barcodes in Metro

3 The codes will direct your mobile browser to **m.metronews.ca**

Having a royal wedding viewing party? Here's what to feed your guests. Video at metronews.ca

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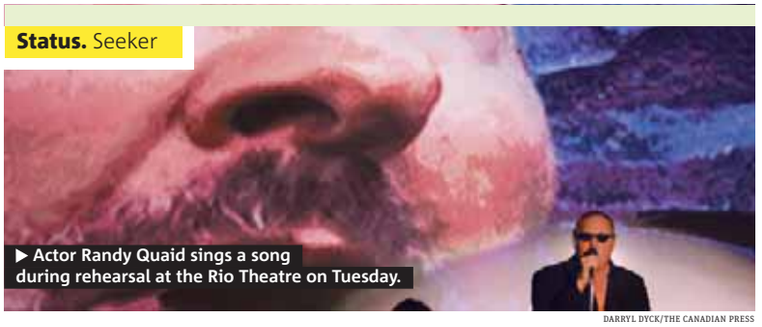


▶ Actor Randy Quaid sings a song during rehearsal at the Rio Theatre on Tuesday.

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quaids share unfinished business

Randy Quaid will sing and screen his wife Evi Quaid's unfinished film Star Whackers at the Rio Theatre on Friday night. Quaid and his wife arrived in Canada in 2010 to seek refugee status and he is now being sponsored to stay in the country by his wife who was deemed to be a Canadian citizen.

Falun Gong warns protest bylaw headed for courts

- **Councillors voted 6-4 in favour of the new regulation**
- **Vision Vancouver Coun. Raymond Louie splitting from his council colleagues to side with COPE's David Cadman and Ellen Woodsworth, and NPA's Susan Anton**

The Falun Gong is vowing to take the City of Vancouver back to court after councillors passed a controversial bylaw affecting political protest structures.

Falun Gong went to court after former mayor Sam Sullivan ordered a protest hut dismantled outside the Chinese consulate, prompting the B.C. Court of Appeal to find Vancouver's old bylaw was unconstitutional and giving the city until Tuesday to come up with a new one.

An initial draft was sharply criticized for imposing hefty fees and deposits, as well as banning protest structures in residential areas — a restriction aimed at Falun Gong practitioners who had been protesting since 2001 in a hut outside Vancouver's Chinese consulate, which is in a residential area.

Falun Gong spokeswoman Sue Zhang warns the city will find itself back to court because the new bylaw restricts the size of structures so not all the group's members can participate, and it still goes against the B.C. Court of Appeal ruling.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blogger Mike Klassen announces bid for spot on city council

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

▶ Mike Klassen on Wednesday at the Round house Community Centre.

CityCaucus blogger Mike Klassen will be throwing his hat in the NPA ring for one of the party's spots on Vancouver's city council, he announced Wednesday.

"Just because you have Vision in your name doesn't mean you have vision. I think we need a change in government," Klassen said.

"How did Vancouver become a city that stops listening? I think it's because we've got a city government now that's dictating to us what they want and not what we want."

Klassen, who has made a name for himself holding the current administration's feet to the fire as a civic politics blogger on CityCaucus.com, said if he becomes councillor he will build and promote a more "walkable" city, develop a housing strategy to drive down costs and attract the next generation by having world-class amenities, safe streets and modern schools.

"Vancouver must (also) take care of its less fortunate," Klassen said. "We've shouldered a greater burden when it comes to homelessness than other cities and while Mayor Gregor says he's going to continue to ramp up shelters, I think we know that a cotton at a church basement isn't enough."

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS

Lions kick returner detained in California incident

The B.C. Lions announced yesterday that kick returner Yonus Davis was recently detained in an incident in California but no further information was released.

"We are aware of an incident that involved Yonus," said Lions GM and coach Wally Buono. "He remains a part of our football club while the investigation process takes its course."

METRO

Delta dial-a-dope dismantled

Delta police have shut down a dial-a-dope operation that targeted the southern part of the community, including the Tsawwassen First Nation Reserve.

Five men and one woman are facing various charges.

Police say an investigation that began last December revealed cocaine was the primary drug being distributed.

The group also trafficked ecstasy, marijuana and mushrooms.

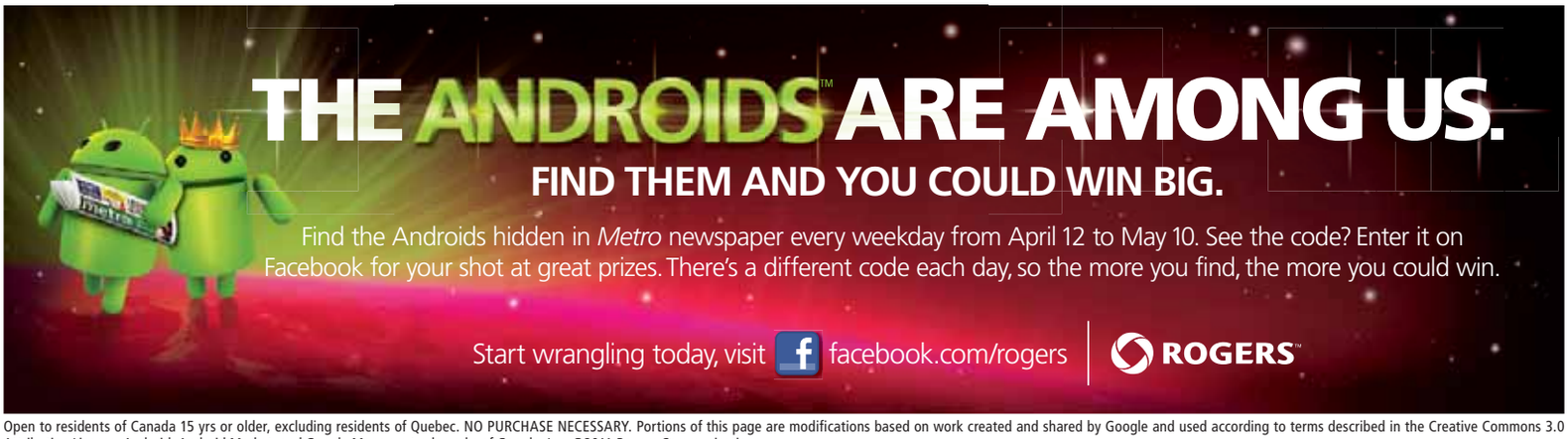
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Greens call for ban on tanker traffic near Gulf Islands

Federal Green party Leader Elizabeth May has announced deterring oil tanker traffic along the Gulf Islands will be one of her priorities in Ottawa should she be elected in the riding of Saanich-Gulf Islands.

The Green party's official platform calls for a ban of tanker movement along B.C.'s coast.

METRO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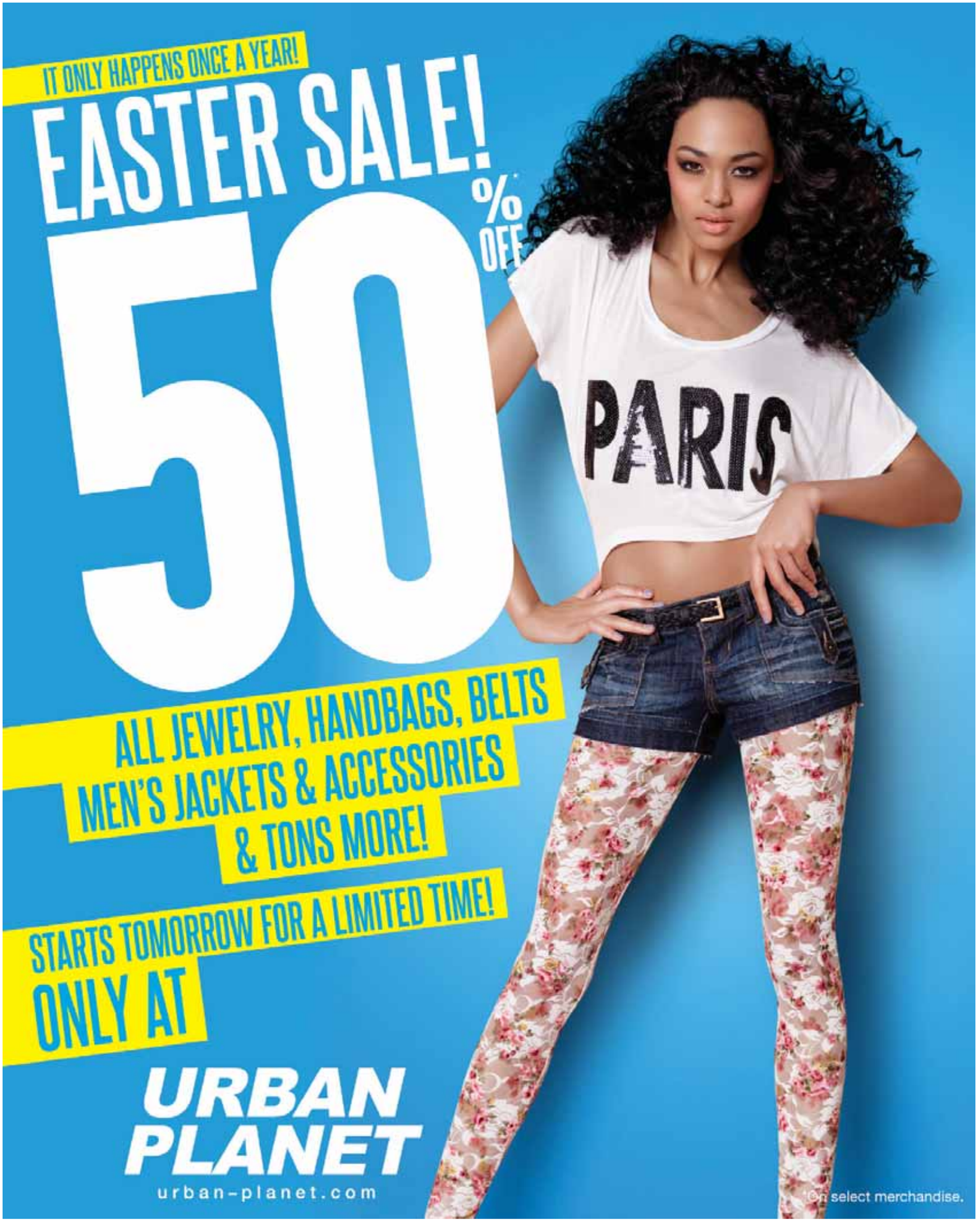
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News in pictures

PHOTOS
1. DARREN MCCOLLESTER/GETTY IMAGES
2. HOCKEYDB.COM
3. JEFF HODSON/METRO FILE
4. FLICKR.COM

1 Nobel laureate Amartya Sen will be receiving an honorary degree from UBC at a special ceremony on Thursday. Sen, an Indian economist, won the 1998 Nobel Prize in economic sciences for his research on welfare economics, among other things. **KRISTEN THOMPSON**

2 The Chilliwack Bruins hockey team is on the move after five years in the Fraser Valley, the WHL has announced. The team is set to relocate to Victoria, where it will play at the Save-On-Foods Centre. **KRISTEN THOMPSON**

3 Vancouver artist Rodney Graham, who sculpted Aerodynamic Forms in Space at the entrance to Stanley Park, has won the $30,000 Audain Prize for lifetime achievement in visual art. **METRO**

4 Coffee chain giant Starbucks will unveil its new front-of-store recycling program Thursday in Vancouver. The program will accept single-serving polyethylene-lined coffee cups. **METRO**

Vancouver Special returns with a smaller footprint

Come check out the playhouse this weekend at Vancouver Special — that's the name of the shop — at 3612 Main St.

KRISTEN THOMPSON
@METRONEWS.CA

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO

▶ You'll have to "think thin" if you want to fit into this Vancouver Special — created by Bob Kronbauer, upstairs, and Jason Sokolowski.

The first Vancouver Special built in two decades is going up near Main Street and 16th Avenue, but you probably won't be able to see it from the street. Nor will you likely fit inside.

The iconic home will be making its debut in Bob Kronbauer's backyard in the form of a 1.2-by-2.4-metre playhouse he built for his two-year-old son.

"I was surprised no one had thought of it before," said Kronbauer, who was looking for a cool alternative to bright plastic playhouses.

He had the idea in his head for about a year before fate threw Jason Sokolowski his way.

"Jason's daughter hangs out with my son and my wife was like, 'Did you know Jason's a professional designer and builds stuff?'" Kronbauer said.

The two put their heads together and a playhouse — and friendship — was born.

The duo said people are already showing interest in ordering custom-built homes.

Sokolowski said they can sell pre-fabricated playhouses or build a finished home with all the trimmings, including tiny stone lions — er, kittens — and concealed gutters.

"If you own a Vancouver Special, we can make it look like your home," Kronbauer said.

"The kids ... love it. They're going to have so much fun."

Want one?

- Interested in placing an order? Email bobk@vancouverisawesome.com.
- Playhouse prices start at $1,500.

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ASSAULT CASE

No pay for suspended New West officer

A B.C. police officer found guilty of assaulting a newspaper delivery man has been suspended without pay from the New Westminster police department.

Jeffrey Klassen was convicted this month in an incident in which three off-duty officers got into a fight with Firoz Khan outside a downtown Vancouver hotel in January 2009.

The officers had been drinking before the incident.

Klassen had been on paid suspension during his trial, but the New Westminster Police Board has now suspended him without pay.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mountie faces crash charge

An RCMP officer involved in a crash that killed a motorcyclist in Delta nearly three years ago has been ordered to stand trial on a charge of attempting to obstruct justice.

Cpl. Benjamin (Monty) Robinson was initially under investigation for impaired driving in the 2008 collision.

His Jeep and a motorbike being driven by 21-year-old Orion Hutchinson collided.

Robinson, who was off-duty at the time of the crash, claimed he went home and had two shots of vodka before returning to the scene, where he failed a breath test.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Anger over leave for child killer

Politicians and citizens rallied outside Coquitlam city hall Wednesday to protest the escorted leave of convicted murderer Allan Schoenborn.

He killed his three children but was found not criminally responsible because of his mental health.

METRO

Dosanjh's signs hit by vandalism

Liberal MP Ujjal Dosanjh says dozens of election signs in his Vancouver riding have been damaged or have disappeared in what his campaign is calling "deliberate" vandalism.

More than 35 signs have disappeared and another 25 needed to be repaired.

METRO

New leash on life for quake pooch

Belle the dachshund was abandoned as owners fled in Japan ◐ Animal activist's parents will be new guardians ◐ 'She's one of the lucky ones'

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

A four-year-old dachshund abandoned by its owners after fleeing Japan because of radiation fears has found a new home in Surrey.

Ashley Fruno, a veteran animal rescuer for PETA — People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals — brought Belle to her parents' home in Cloverdale Wednesday so they could care for the pet.

"She's one of the lucky ones because she's been given a new lease on life," Fruno said.

PETA, she added, was the first international animal rescue organization that was dispatched to Japan.

The group looked for strays and distributed supplies to evacuation centres where animals were housed.

"Three vet checkups in less than 24 hours. I think she's fine."
ASHLEY FRUNO, DETAILING BELLE'S SERIES OF SCREENINGS

Fruno said she found Belle in Niigata, south of Sendai — the area affected worst by the March earthquake and tsunami.

Belle is radiation-free, Fruno assured.

"She was actually screened by Japan animal quarantine when she was exported from Japan.

"Then she was screened again when we got to Seattle, then again coming into Canada," she said.

Fruno also recommended that families have emergency evacuation plans when natural disasters strike that include arrangements for companion animals.

METRO

▶ PETA animal rescuer Ashley Fruno plays with Belle at her parents' house in Cloverdale Wednesday.

It shouldn't take 14 years to reunite a family.

The Harper government claims to support family reunification for immigrants, but they have actually made it harder. A parent or grandparent could spend up to 14 years separated from their family.

And that's too long – especially for elderly relatives who may not have much time left. If this isn't happening to you, it is happening to someone you know. You can help reunite families sooner.

Vote for the candidate who supports family reunification in the upcoming federal election.

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GANGS

Alleged crime boss freed

Charges have been stayed against the alleged boss of a group police partly blame for a bloody gang war that played out on the streets of Vancouver two years ago.

When Udham Singh Sanghera and his associates were charged in 2009, Vancouver Police Chief Jim Chu said police had dealt a fatal blow to the "highest levels" of those engaged in the gang war.

But Wednesday, a Crown spokesman confirms Sanghera and one of his associates, Gordon Taylor, are free after the charges against them were stayed following five weeks of trial.

Taylor's lawyer, Patrick Angly, says the Crown's decision Tuesday was unexpected and came after he sought disclosure of information about a police agent who dealt with the men just before their arrests.

Sanghera and Taylor were among six people charged at the time with firearms offences.

Food Bank kicks off spring drive

As the weather gets warmer and life a bit easier this spring, the Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society is reminding us that many people still can't put food on the table.

"People often aren't thinking about the food bank when the weather gets nice," said Cheryl Carline, CEO of the Greater Vancouver Food Bank.

More than 30 per cent of food bank users are children, Carline said.

To help, Loblaw stores, including Superstore and No Frills, have kicked off their 2011 Extra Helping Spring National Food Drive, which runs until April 28.

Shoppers can donate in-store by adding $2 to their grocery bills, or by donating cash and food.

KRISTEN THOMPSON

9.2 Food banks across Canada helped 867,948 individuals in March 2010 — an increase of 9.2 per cent or more than 73,000 people over the previous year, according to the HungerCount 2010 survey.

North Van Boyz proud of 'C' on their chests

Group of friends created video parody to pay tribute to Canucks Hoping to see their song, which has had 205,000 hits, played at Rogers Arena

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
VANCOUVER
@METRONEWS.CA

With the Canucks hoping to end their series with the Blackhawks Thursday night, a group of friends from North Vancouver has created an anthem for the team that has turned into the latest viral sensation.

The North Vancouver Boyz, best known for their music video parody of Katy Perry's California Girls, showed their team spirit with a song called "Canucks Rule", set to the tune of Cee Lo Green's song Forget You.

"We just thought this was the best year the Canucks has ever had and it was a really good opportunity to support our favourite team," said David Wiggins, director, editor and co-writer of the lyrics.

"Obviously fans from other teams probably aren't going to like it much because they're jealous."
DAVID WIGGINS, DIRECTOR, EDITOR AND CO-WRITER

The four-minute clip is proving to be another parody-turned-viral hit, with nearly 205,000 YouTube views — a great feat for something locally focused — after it was released last Wednesday in time for the Canucks' opening game with the Chicago Blackhawks. The video received 25,000 hits within 24 hours.

"There's always going to be people that don't like it for whatever reason," Wiggins said.

"We're not professional singers or anything. We're just having fun."

The guys are hoping to see their video played at Rogers Arena and that dream may soon become a reality as the team already posted the video on its official website.

YOUTUBE

Mike Russell, the main singer in the parody video, sings why the "Canucks Rule" to the tune of Cee Lo Green's Forget You.

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Iggy winning more hearts

Liberal leader tied with PM in popularity stakes

Nuts and bolts

- **The trend:** The survey suggests Michael Ignatieff has seen his popularity spike recently while Stephen Harper's has fallen.
- **The figures:** Ignatieff was viewed favourably by 42 per cent of respondents and negatively by 50 per cent. Harper was viewed favourably by 43 per cent and unfavourably by 52 per cent.
- **The statistics:** The poll of 1,000 Canadians, conducted between April 14 and April 17, is considered accurate to within 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Election 2011

A new poll suggests Michael Ignatieff has made significant gains in personal popularity and is now tied with Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

The Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey suggests the Liberal leader has regained the ratings he held in 2009.

However, Jack Layton, leader of the popularity contest, was viewed favourably by 68 per cent of respondents — and unfavourably by 26 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Gaining popularity: Michael Ignatieff and wife Zsuzsanna Zsohar board their campaign plane in Toronto on Wednesday.

Strategic-vote fans have a strategy — social media

The strategic-vote advocates are at it again.

They're armed with social media and intriguing interactive websites.

As is often the custom midway through election campaigns, some who cringe at the thought of the incumbent party winning are trying to pool votes to sway the results.

It has never worked on a large scale in Canada and its detractors warn that strategic voting could do more harm than good.

Nonetheless, the advocates say strategic voting can indeed work in some elections and their anti-Conservative campaigns are gaining momentum.

Project Democracy says it has registered 900,000 page views since it launched its website a week ago.

Gary Shaul's group, Catch 22, has raised $15,000 and is about to launch a low-key advertising and flyer campaign.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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INCLUDES roundtrip air to Orlando, 4 nights accom close to theme parks and 4 night cruise sailing roundtrip Port Canaveral visiting Freeport and Nassau. UPGRADE to 4-star Orlando accom and oceanview cruise stateroom from $27 per night.

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Europe

London Air + 6 Nights from $969 + taxes & fees $475
INCLUDES accom close to public transit, shopping and the British Library with breakfasts.

Frankfurt Air + 7 Nights from $1259 + taxes & fees $465
INCLUDES accom close to trade fairgrounds and public transportation with breakfasts.

USA

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TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

▶ Canadian activist Maude Barlow is part of a push at the UN to specify the rights of Earth to be protected from exploitation.

Canuck fights for Mother Earth's rights

Barlow, along with prestigious authors, politicians and activists released book, The Rights of Nature

As the United Nations began discussion Wednesday on the idea of a declaration of rights for Mother Earth, a Canadian activist is helping lead the fight to obtain what she calls a "paradigm shift" in the way we perceive the Earth and its resources.

"Nobody is talking about a carrot doesn't have the right to not be eaten or a fish not to be caught or giving rights to a cow in the field," said Maude Barlow, the national chairperson of the Council of Canadians, in an interview with the Toronto Star from New York's United Nations.

But what Barlow and other activists are saying is that it's time for us to shift from an economic view of "unlimited market growth" to one that focuses on the fact the "Earth sustains all life" and if we don't take care, the planet and human beings are going to be in serious trouble.

She points to a study that she says reports that by 2030 the demand for water in our world will outstrip supply by 40 per cent as an example of the mishandling of resources. Clearly, something is wrong, she and others argue.

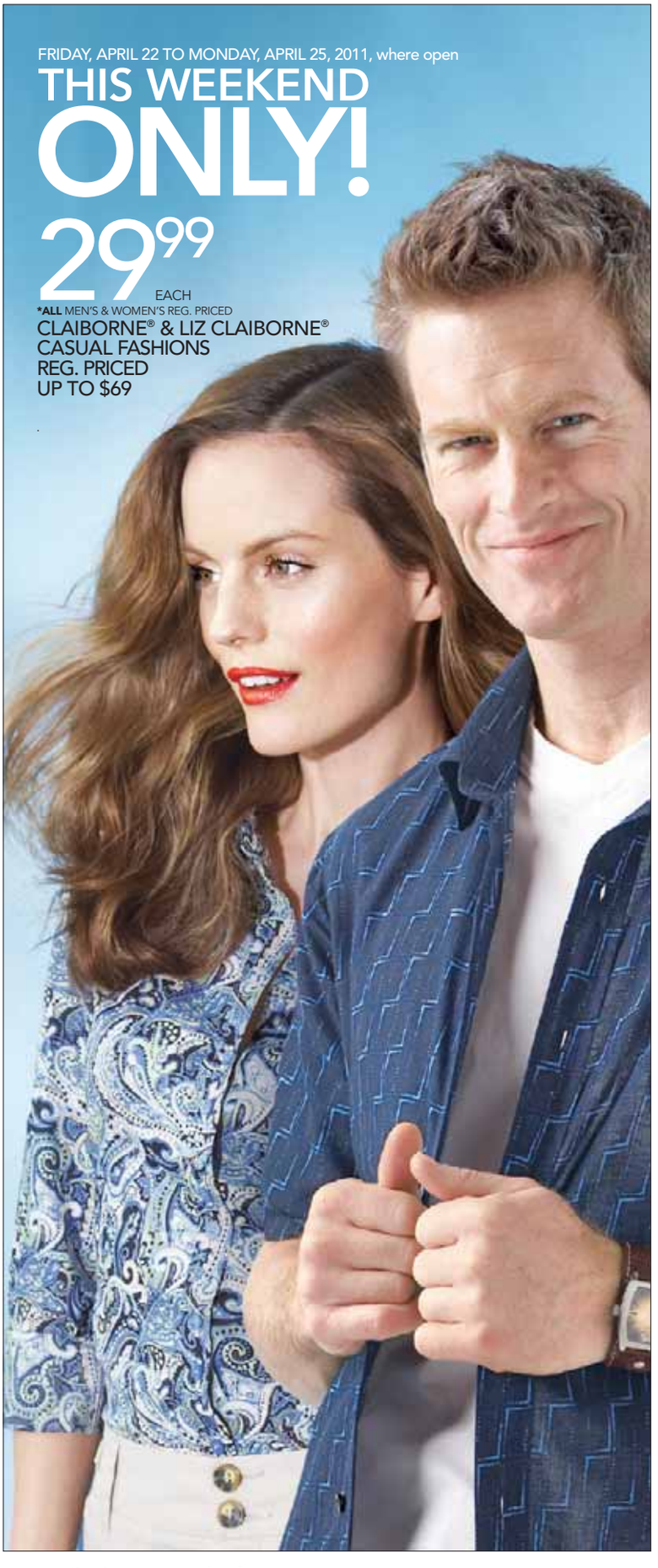
"Our argument is our policies of unlimited growth, unregulated trade and then government deregulation — taking away the rights of government to protect the environment — is putting the environment at risk.

"The question is not to come at the issue saying nature has human rights in the way we understand them, but rather to say: What kind of society could we build if we introduced laws that actually give the Earth and other species the right to exist and not be destroyed us?"

TORSTAR NEW SERVICE

The green line

- **A movement for** an international declaration of rights for Mother Earth came after the failure of the 2009 climate change summit in Copenhagen.
- **Following that, 32,000** gathered in Bolivia to discuss future options and the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth was born.
- **Part of the declaration** reads "Mother Earth is a living being ... a unique, indivisible, self-regulating community of interrelated beings that sustains, contains and reproduces all beings."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Gadhafi forces intensify attack on Misrata

Despite coming under international criticism for its assault on city, loyalists press on

Inside the besieged city of Misrata, spent rockets protrude from the pavement and fighters at roadblocks sit inside empty shipping containers outfitted with generator-powered TVs and watch Al-Jazeera reports of their war with Moammar Gadhafi.

"The number of artillery shells and mortars is truly amazing," said Abdul-Athim Salim, a geography professor at the local university. "The only break is when they are changing ammunition."

Gadhafi's forces have intensified their assault on Libya's third-largest city, firing tank shells and rockets into residential areas, according to witnesses and human rights groups. NATO commanders have admitted their airpower is limited in being able to protect civilians in a city — the core mission of the international air campaign. France vowed to step up airstrikes.

Most of the Gadhafi troops are centred to the south and west of the city of 300,000, and many of the residents who had lived in those areas fled to the northern part of the city. There were four areas of intense fighting in the city on Wednesday, and everyone seemed to know where the battle lines are.

Gadhafi's government has come under international criticism for its assault on Misrata and been accused by human rights groups of using heavy weapons, including missiles and cluster bombs — which have been banned by many countries.

Libyan officials have persistently denied the army is shelling Misrata or using cluster bombs. "We welcome any objective investigation of the actions of our army, our government and our officials," said government spokesman Moussa Ibrahim, adding the international community shouldn't listen to reports "fabricated by the rebels."

Human rights activists have said more than 260 people have been killed in Misrata, with the final toll likely higher, and many more people wounded.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHRIS HONDROS/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Libyan rebel fighters discuss how to dislodge ensconced government troops who are firing on them. The photographer who shot this image was later critically injured.

Photographer killed in Libya, 3 wounded

An Oscar-nominated war photographer and film director was killed Wednesday in Misrata while covering battles between rebels and Libyan government forces. Three other Western photographers were wounded.

British-born Tim Hetherington, co-director of the documentary Restrepo about U.S. soldiers on an outpost in Afghanistan, was killed inside the only rebel-held city in western Libya, said his publicist, Johanna Ramos Boyer.

Chris Hondros, a New York-based photographer for Getty Images, was seriously injured and was on a respirator at Hikma Hospital. Doctors told The Associated Press that his condition was critical.

The two other photographers — Guy Martin and Michael Christopher Brown — were treated for shrapnel wounds, doctors said.

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Offers include freight and air tax of $1,450 / $1,550 / $1,550 but exclude variable charges of license, fuel fill charge, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees, any environmental charges or fees, and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. †Max. horsepower of 411 and max. torque of 434 lb-ft on F-150 6.2L V8 engine. Class is Full-Size Pickups under 8,500 lbs GVWR vs. 2011/2010 comparable competitor engines. ††When properly equipped. Max. towing of 11,300 lbs with 3.5L EcoBoost and 6.2L 2 valve V8 engines. Max. payload of 3,060 lbs with 3.5L EcoBoost and 5.0L Ti-VCT V8 engines. Class is Full-Size Pickups under 8,500 lbs GVWR vs. 2010/2011 competitors. †††Class is Full-Size Pickups under 8,500 lbs. GVWR, non-hybrid. Estimated fuel consumption ratings for the 2011 F-150 4X2 3.7L V6 Automatic and SST: 12.8L/100km city and 8.9L/100km hwy based on Transport Canada approved test methods. 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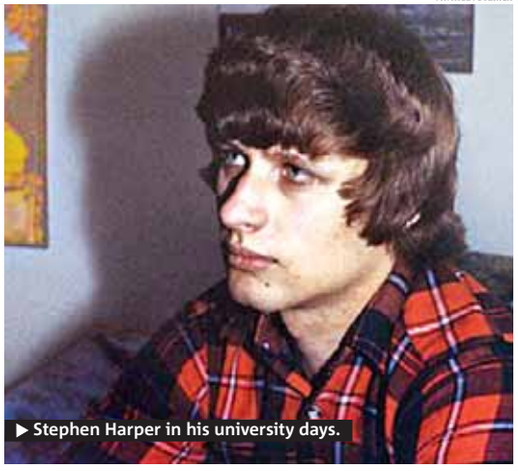
VINTAGEVOTER.CA



▶ Stephen Harper in his university days.

Harper clad in plaid

Website mocking old photos of candidates expected to hit a million views Plenty of mop-top hairdos and large-frame glasses to snicker at

ELISHA DACEY
@METRONEWS.CA

Bet Stephen Harper never thought a photo of himself in his university days would go viral.

Thanks to a new website, vintagevoter.ca, photos of Harper and the other national party leaders in their "glory" days are all over Twitter and Facebook.

The site, which has published photos of Harper, Elizabeth May, Michael Ignatieff, Jack Layton and Gilles Duceppe in their younger years, was created by Winnipegger David Liebl, 31, and two friends.

"Certainly, we never expected it to be this popular," said Liebl.

Liebl said vintagevoter.ca has been a Twitter trending topic since its launch.

"We're, as you say, equal in who we make fun of."
DAVID LIEBL, 31, WHO FOUNDED VINTAGEVOTER.CA

Liebl calls the site a satirical look at national politics, and he hopes the site will encourage people to become more engaged in the political process.

"I won't suggest that looking at the site translates into a vote at the box, but it's my hope ... that people will become more engaged and aware of Canadian politics."

Liebl said he has had responses from at least one political party and he's hoping other camps will submit photos of their leaders in their younger days.

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NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Marcelo da Luz, designer and creator of the XOF1 solar car, pulls the car down Lake Shore Boulevard in Mississauga, Ont., on Wednesday. Ontario is the only province in Canada that will not legally allow him to drive the solar car on the streets. Da Luz is on his way to Queen's Park in Toronto to protest the issue.

Man demands street rights for solar-power car

The vehicle is just a few metres long ◐ Creator pulled over in Alaska after UFO sighting was reported

A man who travelled North America in a solar-powered car is in the final stretch of manually hauling the vehicle to the Ontario legislature because he can't legally drive it in the province.

Marcelo da Luz is only a few kilometres from the final stop in his 160-kilometre Power of One walk from Niagara Falls to Toronto, where he will pull the car to the premier's doorstep in hopes Dalton McGuinty will make it street legal.

The 42-year-old from Toronto says the Ontario government has made it virtually impossible to drive it legally in the province — demanding he put up signs on 3,000 kilometres of roads, or get letters from every local police force.

So he strapped a harness to his waist and is pulling the 213-kilogram car an average of 15 kilometres per day so he can tell the province in person that he believes it is stifling solar energy innovation by not allowing his made-in-Ontario car on its roads.

"Ontario has been fantastic, they have been the leader on so many fronts in terms of sustainability with a lot of green initiatives," da Luz said as he began the final stretch of his walk Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PRISON-BOUND

WikiLeaks suspect relocated

The U.S. Army private suspected of giving classified data to WikiLeaks is being flown to a state-of-the-art prison where Pentagon officials said more extensive mental, emotional and physical health care will be available.

The Pentagon said Wednesday that Army Pfc. Bradley Manning arrived at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., in midafternoon where he will undergo an in-depth assessment over five to seven days by medical staff.

Jeh Johnson, the Pentagon's top lawyer, said the move does not suggest that Manning's treatment at the Marine Corps base south of Washington was inappropriate. The transfer comes after criticism about his treatment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NYC rider stabbed in ciggie fight

A woman was stabbed in the face with a pen on a New York City subway train after she tried to stop a man from lighting a cigarette.

The assault occurred on a crowded No. 3 train near the Chambers Street station during Tuesday's morning rush. Smoking is not allowed on the trains.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Texas fire wars

- Firefighters optimistic with a 20 to 30 per cent chance of rain
- Rain only forecast for some areas impacted by raging blazes

Firefighters in Texas were battling several massive blazes across the state Wednesday, adding up to more than 400,000 hectares of land burned in a little more than a week in the drought-stricken state.

The fire started Friday in the Possum Kingdom Lake area, a community of mostly weekend homes about 115 kilometres west of Fort Worth. It spread into two other counties and was still raging well into Tuesday night.

That's when authorities ordered the 400 residents of Palo Pinto, about 80 kilometres west of Fort Worth, to leave because of the advancing flames, said Trooper Gary Rozzell of the Texas Department of Public Safety. The county's jail inmates also evacuated, as did the nearby community of Graford and the small town of Strawn.

Firefighters had some hope as rain and higher humidity levels were forecast for the rest of the week in parts of the state.

A 20 to 30 per cent chance of rain was forecast for Wednesday and Thursday in the North Texas area, said Daniel Huckaby, of the National Weather Service in Fort Worth.

"Some areas will get some rainfall, but unfortunately most will not. And with the chaotic wind that thunderstorms can produce, and the lightning they can produce, that can make matters worse," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOM PENNINGTON/GETTY IMAGES

▶ A volunteer firefighter battles a running wildfire Tuesday in Graford, Texas. Dozens of homes have been destroyed in the wildfires that have been fuelled by dry conditions, high winds, and low humidity.

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A close call for Michelle Obama

Plane incident is latest in air traffic controller crisis

Investigators say a mistake by an air traffic controller was likely to blame for a near-miss Monday at Joint Base Andrews, near Washington, involving U.S. President Barack Obama's wife, Michelle Obama, and Jill Biden, wife of U.S. vice-president Joe Biden.

A White House plane carrying the two women had to abort its landing after coming dangerously close to a military cargo plane sitting on a runway.

The incident is just the latest in a series of mishaps involving air traffic controllers who have either fallen asleep on the job or otherwise flaked out.

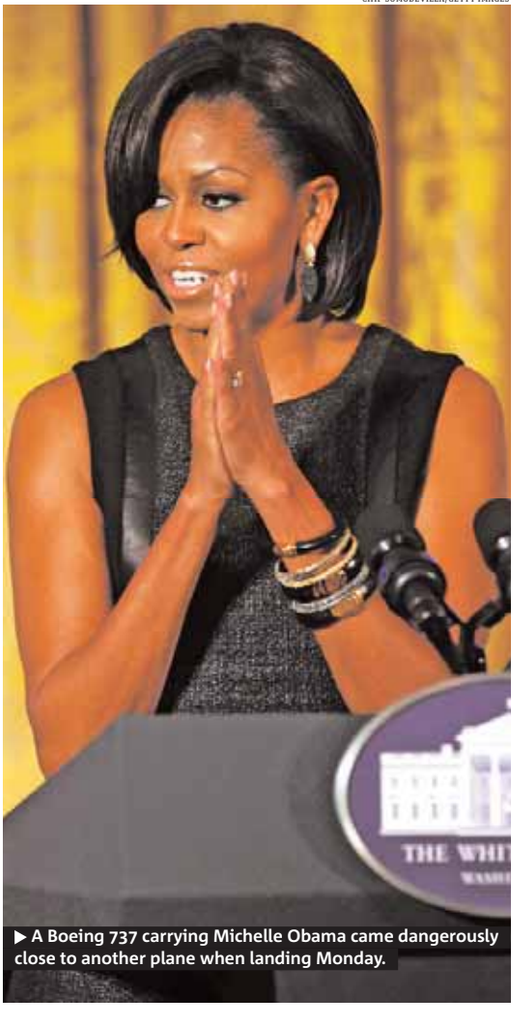
An investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration was underway yesterday into what went wrong at Joint Base Andrews that required the Boeing 737 to abort its landing and circle the airport until the cargo plane was safely out of the way.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

"... I'm hopping mad about it and we will continue to suspend controllers and doing investigations until we put a stop to this."

U.S. TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY RAY LAHOOD, ON RECENT SPATE OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER ISSUES

CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES



▶ A Boeing 737 carrying Michelle Obama came dangerously close to another plane when landing Monday.

CROWDING CONUNDRUM

No more Lords

Squeeze in Sir, excuse me Earl. Lawmakers say the red leather benches of Britain's House of Lords are packed to bursting — with parliament's upper chamber straining to cope with the needs of almost 800 members.

Legislators complain the overcrowding means a scramble for seats, office space and slots to speak.

Some grumble that an influx of new members has ushered in a bad-tempered atmosphere.

The House of Lords currently has 792 active members, a mix of appointed, hereditary and religious peers.

A University College London report published yesterday warned that the chamber had become "bloated and dysfunctional," and demanded an immediate halt to any new appointments.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A royal lunch

Buckingham Palace said Wednesday Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, Prince Philip, hosted the parents of Kate Middleton for a private lunch at Windsor Castle.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

All dressed up

British Prime Minister David Cameron will wear a formal morning suit with long tails to the royal wedding after all, his office said Wednesday. A spokesman had indicated earlier this week that Cameron would opt for a business suit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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It's 'a struggle' to save: Survey

Repaying debt is only going to get harder as spiking inflation drives interest rates up, experts say

Nearly one-third of Canadians don't have enough money to cover living expenses, while 38 per cent have no savings at all, says a survey from TD Bank.

And with interest rates expected to rise this summer, clearing debts probably won't get any easier.

"I think it's worrisome," said Carrie Russell, senior vice-president of retail banking at TD Canada Trust.

The online survey based on a representative sample of 1,003 adults says 30 per cent of Canadians don't have enough money to cover rent and food bills.

Busted

In British Columbia, 44 per cent of respondents said they found it "a struggle" or "impossible" to save, and 30 per cent said they didn't have enough money to cover living expenses.

The respondents said their top goals were: Saving for retirement (73 per cent), paying off credit cards (72 per cent) and major purchases or vacations (53 per cent each).

Russell said 12 per cent of those surveyed couldn't save because "they shopped beyond their means."

Nineteen per cent of Canadians under the age of 35 said they spent too much on shopping, she added.

"This really comes down to the age-old question of budgeting, choices and skills required in making plans for a healthy financial future."

On the flip side, 30 per cent said they had enough money saved to cover living expenses for at least four months.

She recommends a cushion of three to six months of income saved to get through unexpected financial shocks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Home. Brew

▶ Canadians drank 83.6 litres of beer per person in 2010, Statistics Canada reports.

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A hiccup in beer sales

Canadians drank $9.2 billion worth of beer in 2010, up 3.8 per cent from the previous year, Statistics Canada says. But while beer remains the country's favourite alcoholic thirst-quencher, its market share is declining. Wine consumption, on the other hand, continues to grow, with shares for wine rising to 29 per cent last year from 23 per cent in 2009.

Gilded pay packet for Google ex-boss

Google Inc. boosted former CEO Eric Schmidt's salary from one dollar to $1.25 million US, plus an annual bonus of $6 million, when he stepped down on April 4. Schmidt is now Google's executive chairman.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. WEDNESDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 160.65 (13,897.48)	+ 0.35¢ (104.9¢ US)

Oil	Natural gas
+ $3.17 US ($111.45 US)	1,000 cu ft $4.306 US (+ 4.4¢ US)

Gold contracts $1,498.90 US (+ $10.30 US)

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RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Metro is Quebec's leading grocery chain, with dozens of newly renovated stores like this one in Laval.

Food fight dishes up great deals

Metro and other chains wage war against Wal-Mart

Some food prices are rising but consumers continue to see great deals as retailers fight to compete with Wal-Mart.

"Promotional prices are very, very aggressive because of the competitive situation," said Eric La Fleche, president and CEO of Metro Inc.

The rivalry is expected to accelerate in Quebec when the world's largest retailer begins selling a full range of groceries at Wal-Mart Supercentres, as it does in other markets including Ontario.

La Fleche said the deals will continue for now, "but at some point, some of those promotional prices could perhaps increase.

"Consumers will dictate what we can do and we intend to remain very price competitive."

La Fleche said rising inflation has started to kick in, but Metro hasn't felt the full impact of the increases because consumers tend to stop buying the products whose prices have increased. THE CANADIAN PRESS

China surges ahead with electric autos

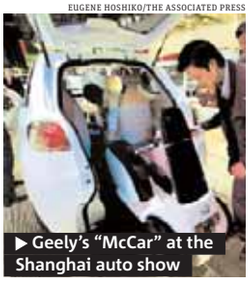
The toylike electric cars at the Shanghai International Auto Show are a glimpse of the high-tech automotive future China's leaders are pursuing — and a harbinger of possible disputes with its trading partners.

Beijing sees electric cars as a field where it can take a global lead. But while it pushes its fledgling automakers to create their own products, it has alarmed global producers that operate in China by pressing them to hand over know-how and limiting access to its market.

Beijing already requires that for a foreign manufacturer to produce an electric car in China, its local joint venture must own the technology for one of the three "core components" — the battery, the motor or the power-management system.

China passed the U.S. in 2009 in number of vehicles sold annually and foreign producers are looking to China to drive sales, putting them under pressure to cooperate. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EUGENE HOSHIKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Geely's "McCar" at the Shanghai auto show

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LONDON HEATHROW[3] MAY 23, 2011 – JUNE 18, 2011 $849
COPENHAGEN MAY 16, 2011 – JUNE 18, 2011 $869
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GENEVA[2]/ZURICH[2] MAY 16, 2011 – JUNE 18, 2011 $879
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He says ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE

WHAT WILL THE PUNDITS SAY?

Whether you're new to the country, new to voting or just an ignouramous (note the Canadian spelling), you may be confused by some of the lingo you've been hearing since the "writ" was "dropped" in our "democracy." If that sounds like you, then here's a special glossary to bring you meaning as you decide who is the lesser of five evils.

CANADA VOTES 2011 GLOSSARY

Advance poll: A place where Canadians who are unable to cast ballots on voting day exercise their right to avoid voting in advance.

Coalition: Traditionally a temporary alliance of political parties used to form a government when no single party can do so. More recently understood to be the worst, most reckless, most despicable action a party can take short of mailing people flesh-eating disease.

Democracy: A form of government designed to give the maximum number of people in society the impression that what they think matters. In Canada, usually accompanied by a question mark. (Google it and see.)

Gerrymander: To divide electoral ridings in a way that favours one party over another; for example, if the Conservative government created a riding that included only affluent suburbs, or if Elizabeth May created a riding that included only her house.

Husting: Any place where a candidate meets voters; originally contained an L.

Independent: A candidate so true to his or her own ideals and personal vision for Canada that he or she has no chance of winning.

Poll: A survey that indicates the voting intentions of people who still have landlines and are so lonely that they're just happy to have someone to talk to, 19 times out of 20.

Pundit: A political commentator who forms opinions by commenting on the opinions of other pundits. The identity of The Original Pundit is a closely guarded secret.

Green party: The Glossary Consortium has ruled that the Green party will not get its own definition until it has a seat in the House of Commons.

Bloc Québécois: A political party that blames the federal government for everything bad and takes credit for everything good, making it the party that most closely resembles the average Canadian.

New Democratic Party: The political party that will hold the balance of power in the House of Commons for the foreseeable future through the power of fourth-place finishes.

Grits: (slang) Southern corn-based food or the Liberal Party of Canada; traditionally goes with pork.

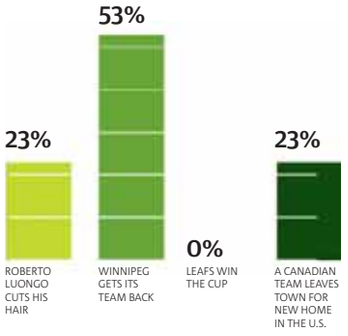
Conservative party: (Definition redacted.)

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

metro life panel

Register at metrolifepanel.ca and take the quick poll

What will happen first in the NHL?



Local tweets

- **@jacob hunter:** NDP MP Libby Davies becomes the first Member of Parliament to address Vancouver 4/20 in history!!! Big thanks as always to Libby!!! #elxn41
- **@trevor_linden:** Big day out at Club 16 Trevor Linden Fitness Coquitlam as it's our Grand Opening Party this aft/evening ... look forward to seeing u there!
- **@misandi:** The weather man just announced it's gonna be warm on Saturday here in #Vancouver ..... That's AWESOME NEWS!
- **@theatre_20:** Tonight going to Opening of "The Graduate" @theArtsClub. But first I need a nap. (That sounds familiar). #theatre #yvr
- **@reupbbq:** We haven't seen so many stoned, white-trash teenagers in one place since high school. #420 #yvr should make people hungry, no?
- **@DeeDub8:** Greetings from #YVR where every day is #420
- **@sbouchard:** Avoid downtown #YVR today around 4:20pm. Unless of course you intend to be in attendance at the VAG.

Worth mentioning

TORONTO. Children's entertainer and activist Raffi is urging "Beluga grads" to vote in the federal election.

The beloved singer-songwriter, author and founder of the Centre for Child Honouring makes the plea in a new video posted on YouTube.

In the piece, titled Raffi 4 Canada, the 62-year-old tells "Beluga grads" that if they're really passionate about Canada like he is, they will want to vote May 2.

He also outlines his hopes for the future of the country, saying he thinks Canada needs to strengthen its democratic traditions and enhance them.

Raffi closes out the video by singing a new election-themed verse to his hit 1980 children's tune, Baby Beluga.

"Now you've grown and you're on your way, making waves in the boundless bay, with your shining light and your dreams alive, for the young you'll have one day," he croons.

"Grown up Beluga, grown up Beluga, come and rock the vote, please get out and vote, we need to hear you."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cartoon by Michael De Adder

WEIRD NEWS

Get cracking to eggs-traordinary tree in Germany

Volker Kraft's apple sapling sported just 18 eggs when he first decorated it for Easter in 1965. Decades later, the sturdy tree is festooned with 9,800 eggs, artfully decorated with everything from sequins to seashells.

Decking trees with hollowed-out painted eggs for Easter is popular in Germany, but the 75-year-old retiree's annual creation has become something special in Saalfeld. Last year, it drew more than 13,000 visitors.

▶ Volker Kraft's tree

Kraft needs two weeks and countless trips up and down his ladder to hang the eggs and the task has become a little heavier each year since he began the decorations in 1965.

Kraft plans to add another 200 eggs next year, bringing his total to 10,000 — and then stop, if only because he is running out of room to store the mountain of boxes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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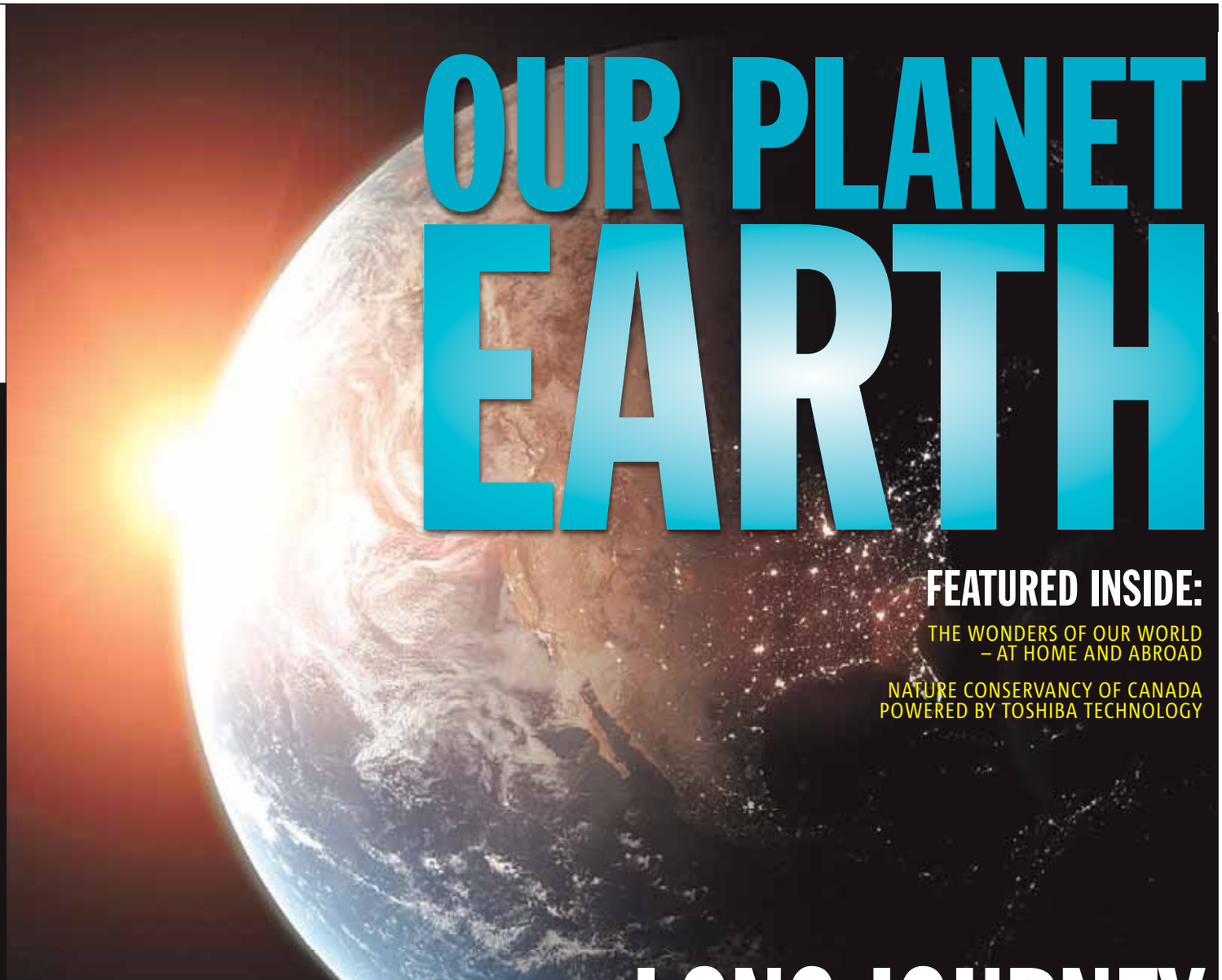

OUR PLANET EARTH

FEATURED INSIDE:

THE WONDERS OF OUR WORLD – AT HOME AND ABROAD

NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA POWERED BY TOSHIBA TECHNOLOGY

THE FIRST STEP IN A LONG JOURNEY

Earth Hour began this year where it always begins — on the east coast of Australia. For the next 24 hours it moved steadily through time zones around the world as millions of people switched off their lights, appliances and television sets for one symbolic hour. Around the world familiar landmarks faded to dark — Big Ben, the Eiffel Tower, the Brandenburg Gate, the Parthenon, Forbidden City and Mount Rushmore. In the Philippines a few television stations even halted their broadcasts. Organizers are still tallying the numbers, but Earth Hour 2010 was already counted as the biggest on record, with more than a billion people taking part.

Jed Goldberg admits that events like Earth Hour don't really benefit the environment in any appreciable way, but he says they are powerful symbols nevertheless. Goldberg is the president of Earth Day Canada, an organization that coordinates Earth Day events, promotes year-round programs and educates Canadians on environmental issues. "The fact that so many millions of people around the world take part in these events shows that there is an environmental consciousness out there that didn't exist 20 years ago," he says. "It's very encouraging."

In fact you have to go back 40 years to truly gauge the progress of the environmental movement. The first Earth Day took place in the United States in 1970, in the era of the Kent State Massacre and campus sit-ins. Environmentalists like Rachael Carson, Jacques Cousteau and Jane Goodall were starting to become household names, while an iconic photograph of a fragile planet Earth on a background of black nothingness — an image taken by Apollo astronauts on the way to the moon — captured humanity's imagination. "Earth Day was supposed to be a one-day wonder," says Goldberg. "Another excuse for a college sit-in. But it touched a nerve, and 20 million Americans took part."

That's a small number, in retrospect. Last year 90 million Americans switched off their lights for Earth Hour, and many more millions took part in Earth Day and Earth Month activities around the world. But is the movement really having an appreciable affect on the environment? Goldberg says yes. "Today environmental awareness is part of our culture here in Canada," he says. "It's part of our daily routine. Twenty years ago a lot of people didn't even know what composting was. Nowadays a lot of urban Canadians have composters in their back yards. Recycling programs are ubiquitous and there's a real awareness of things like organic food and energy saving."

In fact, studies show in just the first four years of the last decade, composting increased the amount of organic waste diverted from Canadian landfills by 70 percent. Recycling has also increased by nearly 10 percent since 2006, decreasing the amount of waste coming from Canadian households by about 4 percent. But carbon emissions in Canada are increasing faster than the population, and recent events like the nuclear reactor crisis in Japan and last year's oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico point to the fact that much more needs to be done. "We've just scratched the surface," says Goldberg. "Shifting our environmental sensibilities is just the first step, but it's an important step."

– Tom Mason

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TOSHIBA'S GREEN MACHINES

Pelee Island

TOSHIBA OF CANADA

Toshiba Canada's support for the new Land Information System includes laptop computers, adapted for multiple uses, both in-field and in-office

IT'S A CHANGING WORLD. THOSE WHO THRIVE DIVERSIFY, AND CONSERVE THEIR RESOURCES WHERE THEY CAN.

You hear this sort of talk a lot in business, but these principles are bigger than profits and losses. They describe the state of our planet, too. Companies like Toshiba of Canada make it their business to see the connection.

For Toshiba, the merging of corporate and social responsibility goes deep; and it's getting deeper still, with the announcement of Toshiba's alliance with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). This three-year partnership will support the two organizations' shared core belief: that conservation of the biodiversity of ecosystems is the key to environmental management.

"We believe NCC is providing a great benefit to Canadians," says Ralph Hyatt, Toshiba Canada's president and CEO. The private, non-profit group partners with corporate and individual landowners to conserve some of Canada's most precious, and imperiled, natural spaces, and the plant and animal life inhabiting them. They protect the wild, yet their methods are anything but low-tech. That's where Toshiba comes in.

Toshiba is the largest private sector supporter of NCC's Land Information System (LIS). Developed by NCC science staff, the LIS will roll out Canada-wide this year, allowing NCC to report on its achievements in an integrated way, using categories such as Species, Threats, and Stewardship Actions, and ultimately helping it make the strategic decisions necessary to better protect Canadian land and species.

Over the next three years, Toshiba will support LIS with funding and mobile computing technology in the form of laptop computers, adapted for multiple uses, including training, in-office and in-field conservation work, and stewardship management. Using Toshiba technology and LIS, NCC staff will report, plan, manage and monitor properties more efficiently, resulting in better time and resources management, and better conservation overall.

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

On one side: a high-tech company with a social ethic, looking for a worthy cause. On the other: a charity helping to preserve the planet, but sorting through mountains of data. Toshiba of Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) belong together, because each offers the other what it needs.

NCC is an organization dedicated to protecting highly threatened landscapes—those vital to Canada's ecological integrity. It's an efficient organization by any measure, keeping overhead costs at 15 per cent, including administration, fundraising, and communication. However, it also requires the help of more than 200 staff and volunteers to collect, store and analyze the enormous amounts of information needed to plan its activities. To keep things running smoothly, and with Toshiba's support, NCC has developed a Land Information System (LIS).

"The LIS allows our experts to access critical information instantly, in the field or the office," explains NCC president and CEO, John Lounds. "Through our partnership with Toshiba, we can integrate powerful technology into that conservation work." And the arrangement does more than save time for NCC staffers; it will also improve conservation outcomes and strengthen NCC's bonds with outside partners, like landowners.

"Toshiba's contribution allows us to better share information that impacts our conservation efforts," says Lynn Gran, NCC's vice-president, strategic philanthropy, and CDO. "That's how you create true win-win outcomes. With Toshiba's support, we're building a system that helps us conserve more landscapes, protect more species, and create a natural legacy for generations of Canadians."

With Earth Day on the way, NCC and Toshiba expect conservation to be top-of-mind for many more Canadians. Those ready to help protect habitats and species can learn how at www.natureconservancy.ca/forcefornature.

American Avocet

ALLISON HASKELL

ENERGY STAR HONOURS TOSHIBA CANADA

Conservation is its own reward, but a little recognition never hurts, either. Toshiba Canada is proud to be named 'Recruit of the Year' at the 2010 Energy Star Market Transformation Awards, acknowledging the company's efforts to market energy efficient products to Canadians.

Today, all of Toshiba's notebooks and LED TVs bear the Energy Star symbol, meaning they reduce energy consumption and costs by 10 to 65 percent over conventional models. Toshiba continues to use the symbol extensively on packaging of qualified products and has developed environmental specification sheets to better educate consumers about them.

The awards are presented annually by the Government of Canada.

2010 ENERGY STAR HIGH EFFICIENCY HAUTE EFFICACITÉ Recruit of the Year

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Toshiba.ca/environment

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The Galapagos Islands were integral to the science of natural history and are one of the the premier ecotourism destinations on the planet.

COURTESY OF GAP ADVENTURES ©ATTIT PATEL

ECOTOURISM ADVENTURES

UNIQUE DESTINATIONS OFFER LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCES

Danny Gilfoy and Michael Waugh were just trying to escape a bleak Nova Scotia winter when they headed for Costa Rica this past February. They ended up escaping the confines of human civilization for two incredible weeks. Costa Rica was a magical place full of natural wonders that the two Halifax natives had never seen before. They hired guides to take them through mangrove swamps teaming with crocodiles, visited beaches where leatherback turtle conservation projects were underway and a rehabilitation centre that returned injured howler monkeys to the wild. They tried their hand at white water rafting and canyoning and rode long zip lines through rainforest canopies. In the quiet evenings they thrilled to the sloths and coatimundis that crept curiously close their rented cabin.

When nothing else was planned, Gilfoy and Waugh hiked the trails that honeycombed through the rain forests and cloud forests near their accommodations — well marked and maintained to keep hikers from trampling the delicate ecosystem and a safe distance away from venomous snakes and insects. "If you have a good guide with you, they will spot things that you wouldn't notice," says Gilfoy. "They'll explain a lot about the ecology of the place that you would otherwise miss."

A Gap Adventures tour group celebrates their arrival at the top of the world in Tibet.

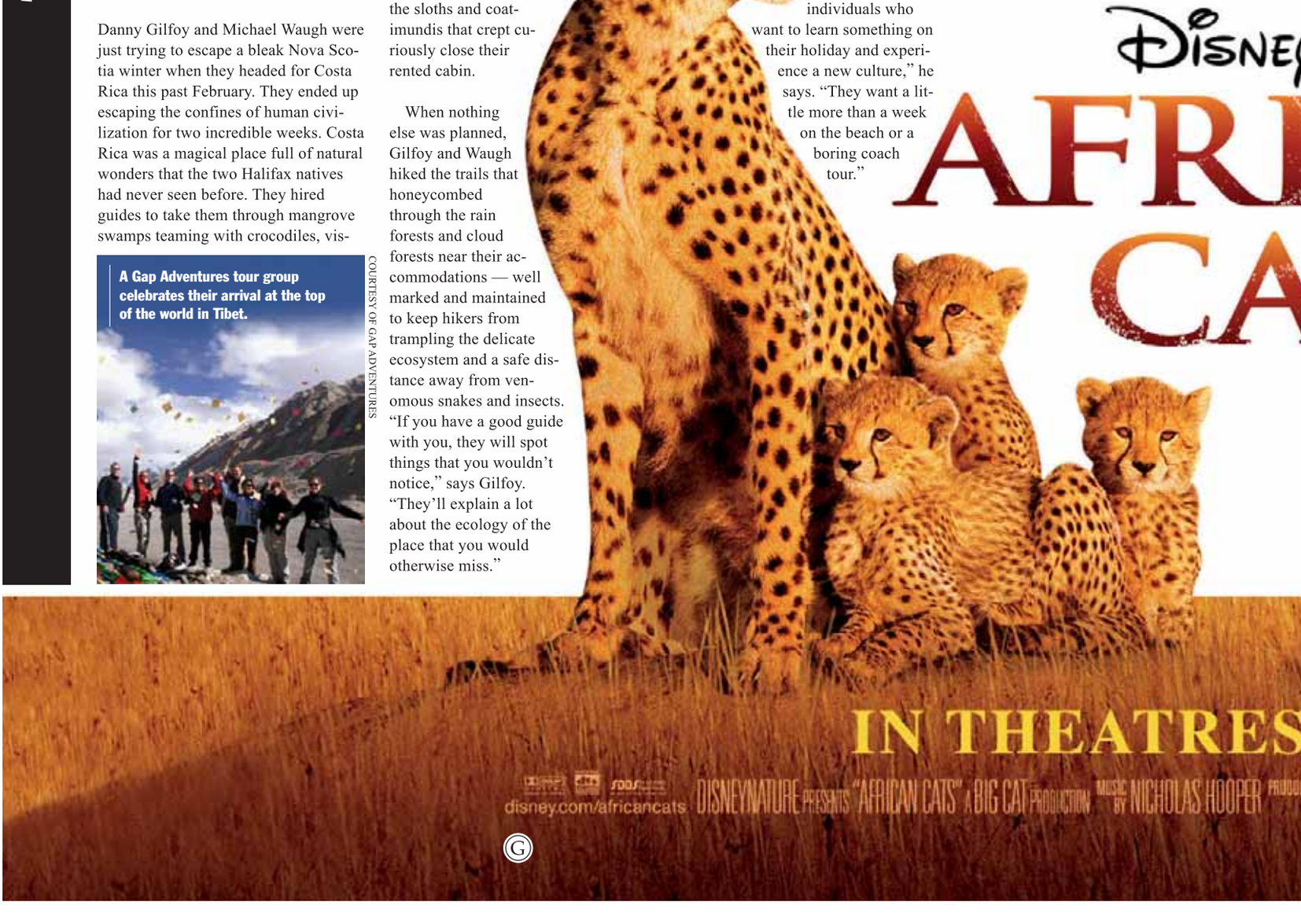
COURTESY OF GAP ADVENTURES

Gilfoy and Waugh are part of a new travel mindset, says Bruce Poon Tip, founder of the Toronto-based adventure travel company Gap Adventures. They are eco-tourists. "Eco-tourists are individuals who want to learn something on their holiday and experience a new culture," he says. "They want a little more than a week on the beach or a boring coach tour."

Poon Tip started Gap Adventures in 1990 as an alternative for traditional forms of travel like cruise ships, resorts and coach tours. Today his company offers more than 1,300 trips to over 100 countries — many to exotic destinations like the Galapagos Islands, Antarctica or Tibet – places with wildlife or spiritual highlights that often create life-changing experiences for his clients. "I believed travel, more specifically innovative travel experiences, was a powerful force that could facilitate change, and ultimately change people's lives."

Gilfoy says the Costa Rica experience was definitely a life-changer, and he recommends that anyone who wants to get the most out of an ecotourism adventure should hire a reputable travel company to handle the details. "The company that we used picked us up at the airport and drove us back. For two weeks they arranged everything, based on what we told them we wanted to do. We didn't have to worry about a thing."

It is still a vacation, after all.

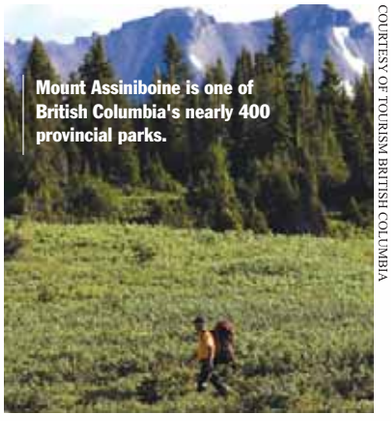


CANADIAN NATURAL WONDERS

The Bay of Fundy between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick is a Mecca for sea kayakers, rockhounds, whale watchers and outdoor lovers.

COURTESY OF NOVA SCOTIA ECONOMIC AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

The Haliburton Forest Tour is one of the most unique hiking experiences in a country awash with great hiking trails. The four-hour guided hike starts along the bank of a scenic river near the Ontario town of Haliburton, then ascends 20 meters into the top of the forest canopy via a suspended boardwalk. It's an aspect of the Canadian forest that most Ontarians have never seen, despite the fact that the Haliburton Forest lies just a few hours drive from cities like Toronto, Ottawa and London.



Mount Assiniboine is one of British Columbia's nearly 400 provincial parks.

COURTESY OF TOURISM BRITISH COLUMBIA

It's a fact that many Canadian city dwellers seem unaware of. No matter where you live in this country, it's possible to spend the day immersed in the natural world and still be home in time for dinner.

The natural drama is everywhere. In Nova Scotia every September millions of plovers and sandpipers gather along a thin strip of beach in the Bay of Fundy, blanketing the mud flats and gorging themselves on shrimp, preparing for a nonstop migratory flight to South America. At the Saguenay-Saint-Laurent Marine Park where the Saguenay River meets the Saint Lawrence, 13 species of whales can be seen in one place as they feed in the rich waters. At Point Pelee National Park in the southern tip of Ontario, keen observers can spot almost 400 species of birds and a variety of plants that aren't found anywhere else in Canada.

Western city dwellers are even closer to nature. Winnipeg sits at the edge of three major Canadian ecosystems — the tallgrass prairie to the west and south, the Canadian shield to the east and the interlake region to the north. In Calgary and Edmonton, an hour's drive west puts day trip adventurers into the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. The same distance east opens up the harsh, beautiful world of the badlands. And British Columbia, with five spectacular national parks and nearly 400 provincial parks, is one of the great ecotourism destinations on the planet.

Taken together it represents a lifetime of exploring for Canadian urbanites. One day trip at a time.

-Tom Mason

CANADIAN ECOTOURISM DESTINATIONS WITHIN EASY REACH

BAY OF FUNDY: Currently on the short list of choices for the "seven wonders of the natural world" the Bay of Fundy between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick is a mecca for whale and bird watchers, fossil hunters, kayakers and photographers.

ALGONQUIN PARK: The oldest provincial park in Canada is also one of the country's finest. Within easy reach from Ottawa, Algonquin Park is a chance to see big game wildlife in its natural state, and follow in the footsteps of the Group of Seven.

CAP TOURMENTE NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREA: Just a short drive north of Quebec City in Quebec's spectacular Charlevoix region, Cap Tourmente is a major snow goose migration stopover and an internationally recognized tidal marsh wetland.

MANTARIO TRAIL: Located about 150 kilometers east of Winnipeg, the 63-kilometer-long Mantario Trail in Whiteshell Provincial Park is not for the ill-prepared, but it's a good place to experience the natural wonders along the edge of the Canadian shield.

MALIGNE CANYON: One of the most dramatic hikes in Alberta's Jasper National Park, Maligne Canyon is a deep canyon complete with waterfalls, glacier carved caverns and spectacular gorges.

JOHNSTON CANYON: An easy drive from Calgary, Johnston Canyon in Banff National Park offers hikers a chance to see as many as seven waterfalls, depending on how much energy they want to exert.

SEA KAYAKING IN HOWE SOUND: With practically a lifetime of natural getaways within easy reach of downtown Vancouver, it's hard to know where to start. A guided sea kayaking tour of Howe Sound is one option — complete with epic mountain scenery, seabirds and possible orca sightings. A number of local outfitters offer rentals, instructions and qualified guides for novice paddlers.

2 scene

HANDOUT

▶ Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family opens on Friday.

Spike fires up Perry

Director Tyler Perry has had enough of fellow African-Americans, especially Spike Lee, attacking him for his films Madea is back in Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

METRO WORLD NEWS IN HOLLYWOOD

Tyler Perry has something he'd like to get off his chest. "Spike (Lee) can go straight to hell! You can print that," the self-made entertainment mogul says. "I am sick of him talking about me … I am sick of him talking about black people going to see movies. This is what he said: 'You vote by what you see,' as if black people don't know what they want to see."

The two filmmakers have hardly been close since Lee started lambasting Perry's work two years ago, saying that Perry's work is "troubling" and "harkens back to Amos and Andy." A war of words began between Perry and Lee, and Perry is ready to put the whole thing behind him. "Spike needs to shut the hell up," he says.

While Perry insists he tries his best to stay positive, the amount of criticism of him out there has reached such a level that he had to respond, culminating with a letter to fans he posted online this week warning of the "folks out there that work overtime trying to keep people from seeing my movies," including his latest, Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family, out this weekend. "I don't even understand it (but) this is where the whole Spike Lee (comment) comes from — the negativity, 'This is Stepin Fetchit, this is coon-ery, this is buffoonery,'" he says. "And they try to get people to get on this bandwagon with them, to get this mob mentality to come against what I'm doing.

> **"Folks out there that work overtime trying to keep people from seeing my movies,"**
> TYRLER PERRY

"I'm tired of just laying down, tired of just being nice and letting them say whatever they want to say however they want to say it without people knowing what the intent really is," Perry says.

What surprises Perry most is how much of the criticism comes from within the black community.

"I've never seen Jewish people attack Seinfeld and say, 'This is a stereotype.' I've never seen Italian people attack The Sopranos," he says. "It's always black people, and this is something that I cannot undo … . And I'm sick of it from us. We don't have to worry about anybody else trying to destroy us and take shots because we do it to ourselves."

Between fending off such criticisms, running a self-made media empire, creating and touring stage shows and directing movies, you'd think Perry never got a break, but that's not the case. He's still managed to find a little time for himself.

"I hiked the Grand Canyon this weekend, so I do (take vacations). I take three days here, four days here, a week here," Perry says. "and I've got a little place down in the Bahamas. I can be there in an hour and half. I can leave my desk (in Atlanta) and be there in an hour and half, sitting there chilling out."

KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Tyler Perry has built a successful film franchise outside of the Hollywood system but has faced cricticism for the content of his movies from people such as Spike Lee.

Scene in brief

The Reel Guys discuss and review Water for Elephants, which stars Reese Witherspoon and Robert Pattinson and opens on Friday. To read the complete story go to metronews.ca/scene.

Canada's Nicolas Roy to compete for Short Film Palme d'Or at Cannes

Movie reviews See it twice ●●●●● | See it now ●●●● | Worth watching ●●● | Yawn ●● | Don't bother ●

African Cats
Genre: Documentary
Directors: Keith Scholey, Alastair Fothergill
Stars: Samuel L. Jackson
●●●●
Highlighted by the dramatic narration of Samuel L. Jackson, African Cats may be entertainment-focused, but it's still an informative documentary that looks at a pair of feline families struggling in the African Savanna. While danger lurks at every turn (from cub-snatching hyenas to river-roaming crocodile), filmmakers Keith Scholey and Alastair Fothergill accompany easy-to-digest storytelling with gorgeous images of wildlife in rare and stunning moments of natural suspense. ● STEVE GOW

Bill Cunningham New York
Genre: Documentary
Director: Richard Press
●●●
Now in his 80s, the enigmatic photographer Bill Cunningham still gets paid to snap shots of ordinary New Yorkers for the New York Times' On the Street Page. Richard Press' documentary seeks to showcase his process and investigate how such a modest, unassuming man could come to wield such massive influence. Cunningham's reticence keeps the film from being a fully rounded portrait, but it's still fascinating. ● ADAM NAYMAN

The Warring States
Genre: Historical Epic
Director: Jin Chen
Stars: Honglei Sun, Kim Hee-Seon, Kiichi Nakai
●●
The Warring States is a gorgeous film that's easy to admire aesthetically, but in terms of tone and narrative is simply too confused and uneven to work properly as art or entertainment. The film is about two feuding military strategists in the midst of an endless war. Formally partners, one is kidnapped by the other to reveal his secrets and feigns madness to escape. ● PHIL BROWN

The High Cost of Living
Genre: Drama
Director: Deborah Chow
Stars: Zach Braff, Isabelle Blais
●●●
Zach Braff carries the heavyweight of The High Cost of Living and its somewhat implausible storyline. After a pregnant woman (Isabelle Blais) is hit-and-run by an American drug dealer (Braff), the guilt-ridden culprit befriends the victim to the questionable point of romance. With nowhere positive to go, the film may be gloomy but its talented stars keep the drama buoyant. ● STEVE GOW

Repeaters
Genre: Thriller
Director: Carl Bessai
Stars: Dustin Milligan, Amanda Crew, Richard de Klerk
●½
Repeaters is about three troubled young drug addicts in rehab that relive the same day over and over until they set a few things right. It's supposed to be a dark and brooding thriller, but given the fact that everyone in the audience will be thinking of Groundhog Day from the second the movie starts, it's pretty hard to take seriously. ● PHIL BROWN

Textuality
Genre: Romantic Comedy
Director: Warren P. Sonoda
Stars: Jason Lewis, Carly Pope, Eric McCormack
●●½
Here's a colourful, earnest but rather tepid dramedy about our current approximation of life and love through complete electronic connectedness, versus actual human contact. Attractive, quasi-available singles isolate themselves behind devices and "rosters" of casual lovers; they've lost interest in taking real risks. It's tough to relate to Textuality, the message is loud and clear but it fails to deliver. ● ANNE BRODIE

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VANCOUVER

OMNIMAX THEATRE SCIENCE WORLD
1455 Quebec St., 604-443-7443

Hubble (STC) A.M. Fri 11 Sat-Mon 1-3 A.M. Tue-Thu 11
The Ultimate Wave Tahiti (STC) Sat-Mon 2

CN IMAX THEATRE
201-999 Canada Place, 604-682-4629

DUNBAR THEATRE
4555 Dunbar Street, 604-222-2991

Hop (G) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:05-5:15
The Lincoln Lawyer (14A) Fri-Thu 9:35
Source Code (PG) Fri-Thu 7:30

FIFTH AVENUE CINEMAS
2110 Burrard Street, 604-734-7469

African Cats (G) Fri-Thu 1-3-5-7:10-9:15
Daydream Nation (14A) Fri-Thu 2-4:45-7:30-9:45
Water for Elephants (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4-7-9:30
Win Win (PG) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:20-9:40
Winter in Wartime (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15-6:50-9

GRANVILLE
855 Granville St., 604-684-4000

Barney's Version (STC) Fri 6:30-9:40 Sat-Sun 4:05-6:30-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:15
Biutiful (14A) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 4-8 Mon-Thu 8
Paul (14A) Fri 6:40-9:15 Sat-Sun 4:10-6:40-9:15 Mon-Thu 5:25-8:10
Sucker Punch (14A) Fri 6:55-9:25 Sat-Sun 4:30-6:55-9:25 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:20
Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family (STC) Fri 7-9:35 Sat-Sun 4:15-7-9:35 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:05

HOLLYWOOD THEATRE
3123 W. Broadway, 604-738-3211
hollywoodtheatre.ca

Listings not available at press time.

OAKRIDGE
650 West 41st Ave., 604-263-1944

Hanna (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Digital Presentation Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:15-9:55

▶ Neve Campbell stars in Scream 4, which opened across Canada last week.

Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Presentation Mon 1:30-4:30-7:15-9:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Presentation Tue-Wed 5:10-8:15
Rio 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri-Sun 1-4-6:45-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon 1-4-6:45-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital Tue-Thu 5-7:45
Water for Elephants (PG) DTS Digital, No Passes Fri-Mon 1:15-4:15-7-9:45 DTS Digital, No Passes Tue-Thu 5:20-8

PACIFIC CINÉMATHÈQUE
1131 Howe Street, 604-688-3456
cinematheque.bc.ca

Cameraman: The Life and Work of Jack Cardiff (STC) Thu 7
Cluny Brown (STC) Fri 4:30 Sun 4:30 Mon 8:15 Wed 9
Eat, for This Is My Body (STC) Sat 6:30
Everybody's Couch (STC) Mon 6:45
Kerity, la maison des contes (STC) Sat 4
Lily Sometimes (STC) Sun 6:30
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue
The Place in Between (STC) Fri 8:20
The Red Shoes (STC) Thu 8:45
A Screaming Man (STC) Fri 6:30
Twice a Woman (STC) Sun 8:35
Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives (G) Sat 8:30 Mon 4:30 Wed 6:45

PARK THEATRE
3440 Cambie Street, 604-876-2747

Jane Eyre (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-4-7-9:25
The Metropolitan Opera: Capriccio (STC) A.M. Sat 10

RIDGE THEATRE
3131 Arbutus Street, 604-738-6311

65 RedRoses (STC) Wed 7
Hanna (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:20 Mon-Tue 4-7-9:20 Wed 4-9:20 Thu 4-7-9:20

RIO ON BROADWAY
1660 E. Broadway, 604-878-Film
riotheatre.ca

Canadian Individual Poetry Slam Finals (STC) Sat 8
Hobo With a Shotgun (18A) Mon-Tue 7:30-9:30 Wed 9:30 Thu 7:30-9:30
Jacob's Ladder (STC) Fri 12
Monty Python and the Holy Grail (STC) Sun 3:30
Monty Python's The Meaning of Life (STC) Sun 5:30 Sun 7:30
Real Time (STC) Fri 7:30
Spoil (STC) Wed 6:30
Star Whackers (STC) Fri

SCOTIABANK THEATRE VANCOUVER
900 Burrard St., 604-630-1407

Arthur (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7-9:40
Fast Five (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01
Hanna (PG) Fri 12:50-3:40-7:30-10:20 Sat 1:15-4-7:30-10:20 Sun-Thu 12:50-3:40-7:30-10:20
Insidious (14A) Fri-Wed 1:20-3:50-6:40-9:30 Thu 1:20-3:50-6:40-9:10
The Lincoln Lawyer (14A) Fri-Tue 1:50-4:45-7:45-10:30 Wed 1:50-4:45-10:30 Thu 1:50-4:45-7:45-10:30
The Metropolitan Opera: Capriccio (STC) Sat 10
Mulroney: The Opera (G) Wed 7
Rio (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15
Rio 3D (G) No Passes Fri 12:30-3-5:20-7:40-10:10 No Passes Sat 11-12:30-3-5:20-7:40-10:10 No Passes Sun-Mon 12:30-3-5:20-7:40-10:10 No Passes Tue-Thu 12:45-3-5:20-7:40-10:10
Scream 4 (14A) Fri-Sun 1-4-6:50-7:20-9:50-10:20 Mon 1-4-6:50-9:50-10:20 Tue 1-4-6:50-7:20-9:50-10:20 Wed 1-4-6:50-9:50-10:20 Thu 1-4-6:50-7:20-9:50-10:20
Source Code (PG) Fri-Wed 1:40-4:20-7:10-10 Thu 1:40-4:20-7:10-9:30
Your Highness (14A) Fri-Thu 2-4:40-7:50-10:25

VANCITY THEATRE
Vancouver International Film Centre
1181 Seymour Street, 604-683-Film
vifc.org

The Desert of Forbidden Art (STC) Fri-Sat 8:30 Sun 4:30-8 Mon 3-6:20
Hairspray (STC) Thu 7:30
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue-Wed
Winds of Heaven: Emily Carr, Carvers & The Spirits of the Forest (STC) Fri-Sat 6:30 Sun 2:30-6:10 Mon 4:30-8

VAN EAST CINEMA
2290 Commercial Drive, 604-251-1313
vaneast.com

Listings not available at press time.

NORTH SHORE

ESPLANADE 6
200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762

African Cats (G) Fri-Mon 2-4:30-7-9:25 Tue-Thu 7-9:25
Arthur (PG) Fri-Mon 1:40-4:15-6:50-9:35 Tue-Thu 6:50-9:35
Insidious (14A) Fri-Mon 1:35-4:10-7:10-9:40 Tue-Thu 7:10-9:40
Limitless (PG) Fri-Mon 1:30-4:05-6:40-9:20 Tue-Thu 6:40-9:20
Memphis Heat: The True Story of Memphis Wrasslin' (STC) Thu 7
Scream 4 (14A) Fri-Mon 1:45-4:25-7:20-9:55 Tue-Thu 7:20-9:55
Source Code (PG) Fri-Mon 1:50-4:20-7:30-9:50 Tue-Wed 7:30-9:50 Thu 9:50

PARK & TILFORD
333 Brooksbank Ave., 604-985-3911

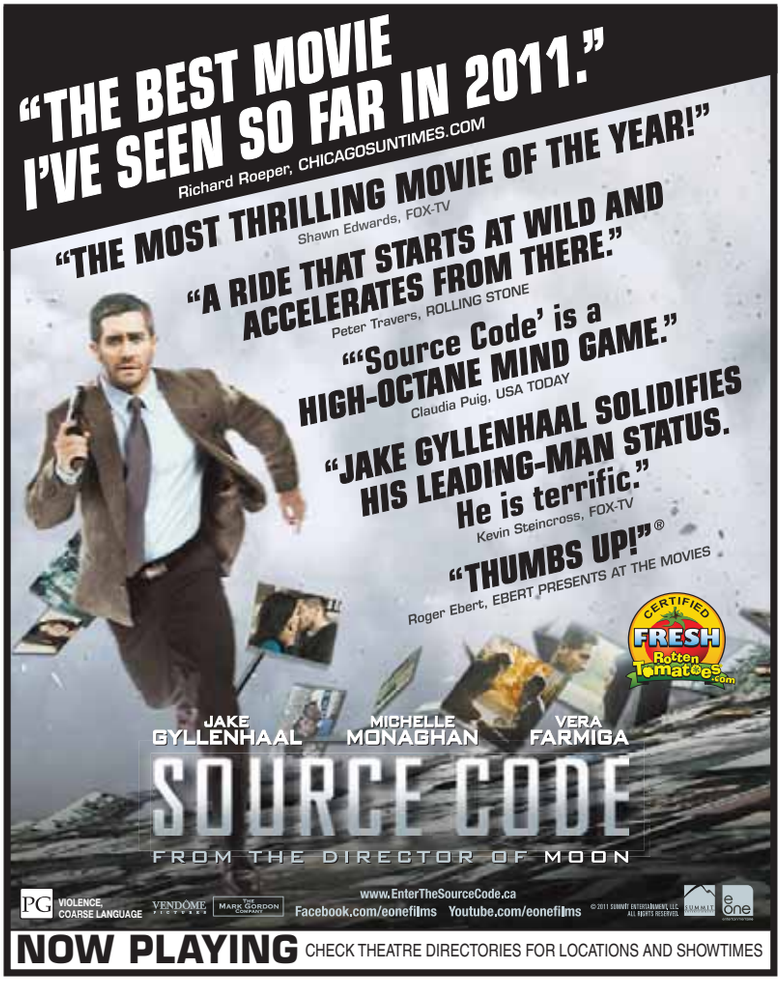
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (G) Fri-Mon 1:40-4:30
Hanna (PG) Fri-Mon 1:30-4:20-7-9:50 Tue-Thu 7-9:45
Hop (G) Fri-Mon 1:50-4:10-6:30-9:10 Tue-Thu 6:50-9:20
The Metropolitan Opera: Capriccio (STC) Sat 10
Rio 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Mon 1-3:40-7:10-9:20 No Passes Tue-Thu 6:30-9:10
Soul Surfer (G) Fri-Mon 1:10-3:50-6:40-9:30 Tue-Thu 6:45-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Water for Elephants (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 1:20-4-6:50-9:55 No Passes Tue-Thu 6:40-9:25 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
Your Highness (14A) Fri-Mon 7:20-9:40 Tue-Thu 7:10-9:40

RICHMOND

RICHMOND CENTRE 6
6551 #3 Road, 604-273-7173

SILVERCITY RIVERPORT
14211 Entertainment Way, 604-272-7280

African Cats (G) No Passes Fri-Wed 12-2:15-4:35-7-9:30 No Passes Thu 4:35-7-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
Arthur (PG) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:35-6:55-9:45
Dharti (STC) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:35-7:30-10:20
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (G) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:45
Dum Maaro Dum (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu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Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE
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Joel Amos, SheKnows.com
"A gorgeous romantic tale full of life, love and beauty."
James Rocchi, MSN Entertainment
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1:10-4:40-8
Fast Five (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01
Fast Five: The IMAX Experience (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01
Hanna (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:10-7:20-10:35
Hop (G) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:25-6:35-9:20
Insidious (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:15-10
Limitless (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:20-6:50-9:50
The Lincoln Lawyer (14A) Fri-Wed 6:45-9:55 Thu 10:30
Memphis (PG) Thu 7
The Metropolitan Opera: Capriccio (STC) Sat 10
Mulroney: The Opera (G) Wed 7
Paul (14A) Fri-Thu 9
Rio (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-3:40-6:15
Rio 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2:30-5-7:35-10:05
Scream 4 (14A) Fri-Tue 12:45-1:30-4-4:30-7:10-7:45-10:10-10:40 Wed 12:45-1:30-4-4:30-7:10-10:10-10:40 Thu 12:45-1:30-4-4:30-7:10-7:45-10:10-10:40
Soul Surfer (G) Fri-Thu 12:05-3:15-6:30-9:15
Source Code (PG) Fri-Wed 1:05-3:55-7:25-10:20 Thu 3:55-7:25-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Sucker Punch: The IMAX Experience (14A) Fri-Wed 1-4-7-9:30 Thu 1-4
The Warring States (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:50-7:05-10:25
Water for Elephants (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:15-3:30-7:10:15 No Passes Thu 12:15-3:30-6:30-9:15
Your Highness (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:40-10:30

BURNABY

DOLPHIN CINEMAS
4555 E. Hastings St., 604-293-0332

Arthur (PG) Fri-Thu 7-9:05
Hop (G) Fri-Mon 1-3-5 Tue-Thu 5
Rio (G) Fri-Mon 12:45-2:45-4:45-6:45-8:45 Tue-Thu 4:45-6:45-8:45

SILVERCITY METROPOLIS
4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474

African Cats (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2:15-4:35-7-9:30
Arthur (PG) Fri-Mon 12:40-4-7:15-10 Tue-Thu 12:35-3:50-6:50-9:40
Fast Five (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01
Hanna (PG) Fri-Mon 12:20-3:50-7:20-10:20 Tue-Thu 1-4:15-7:15-10
Hop (G) Fri-Mon 11:45-2:20-4:55-7:30-10:15 Tue-Thu 12:50-4:05-7:05-9:35
Limitless (PG) Fri-Mon 12:10-3:30-7:05-10:05 Tue-Thu 12:40-3:55-6:55-9:45
The Metropolitan Opera: Capriccio (STC) Sat 10
Rio 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Mon 11:15-1:45-4:15-6:45-9:15 No Passes Tue-Thu 12:30-3:45-6:45-9:25
Scream 4 (14A) Fri-Mon 12:50-4:10-7:35-10:30 Tue-Thu 1:10-4:25-7:25-10:15
Source Code (PG) Fri 1-4:20-7:25-10:25 Sat 1:40-4:30-7:25-10:25 Sun-Mon 1-4:20-7:25-10:25 Tue-Thu 1:05-4:20-7:20-9:55
Water for Elephants (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:30-3:40-6:55-10:10 No Passes Tue-Thu 12:55-4:10-7:10-10:10

STATION SQUARE
220-6200 McKay Ave., 604-434-7711

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (G) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:15-6:55 Mon 1:15-4:15 Tue-Thu 4:15
Hobo With a Shotgun (18A) Fri-Sun 9:35 Mon-Thu 7:30
Insidious (14A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:25-10:05 Mon 1:30-4:30-7:25 Tue-Thu 4:30-7:25
The Lincoln Lawyer (14A) Fri-Sun 7:05-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:05
Rango (PG) Fri-Mon 1:05-4:05 Tue-Thu 4:05
Soul Surfer (G) Fri-Sun 1:25-4:25-7:10-9:40 Mon 1:25-4:25-7:10 Tue-Thu 4:25-7:10
Sucker Punch (14A) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:15-9:55 Mon 1:10-4:10-7:15 Tue-Thu 4:10-7:15
The Warring States (14A) Fri-Sun 1-4-7-10 Mon 1-4-7 Tue-Thu 4-7
Your Highness (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:20-9:45 Mon 1:20-4:20-7:20 Tue-Thu 4:20-7:20

NEW WEST/ COQUITLAM

SILVERCITY COQUITLAM
170 Schoolhouse Street, 604-523-2911

The Adjustment Bureau (PG) Fri-Thu 1:35-7
African Cats (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:30-9:50
Arthur (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:05-7:15-10:05
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (G) Fri-Wed 1:15-3:50-6:30-9:15 Thu 1:15-3:50-9:55
Fast Five (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01
Hanna (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:15-7:05-9:55
Hop (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:15-5:35-8-10:20
Insidious (14A) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:45-7:45-10:25
Limitless (PG) Fri-Tue 1:05-3:50-6:55-9:50 Wed 3:50-6:55-9:50 Thu 1:05-3:50-6:55-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Lincoln Lawyer (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:30-7:25-10:20
Memphis (PG) Thu 7
The Metropolitan Opera: Capriccio (STC) Sat 10
Mulroney: The Opera (G) Wed 7
Paul (14A) Fri-Tue 1:40-4:25-7:20-10:05 Wed 1:40-4:25-10:05 Thu 1:40-4:25-7:20-10:05
Rango (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30
Rio (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3-5:25-7:50-10:15
Rio 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-3:45-6:40-9:30
Scream 4 (14A) Fri-Thu 4:10-7:10-10:20 Fri-Thu 1:50-4:50-7:40-10:30
Soul Surfer (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-4-6:35-9:10
Source Code (PG) Fri-Tue 1:25-4:05-7:35-10:10 Wed 4:05-7:35-10:10 Thu 1:25-4:05-7:35-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Sucker Punch (14A) Fri-Thu 4:20-9:35
The Warring States (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:10-7:10-10:05
Water for Elephants (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 1:30-4:30-7:20-10:15 No Passes Thu 1:30-4:15-7:20-10:15
Your Highness (14A) Fri-Thu 1:55-4:40-7:45-10:25

SURREY/WHITE ROCK/LANGLEY

CLOVA
5732-176th St., Surrey, 604-541-9527

Rio (G) Fri-Mon 1:30-7 Tue-Thu 7

HOLLYWOOD 3 CINEMA
7125-138th Street, Surrey, 604-592-4441

Battle: Los Angeles (14A) Fri-Thu 8:30
Beastly (PG) Fri-Thu 5:30
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (G) Fri-Mon 12:30-2:30-4:30-6:30 Tue-Thu 4:30-6:30
Gnomeo and Juliet (G) Fri-Mon 12:15-3:55
Mars Needs Moms (G) Fri-Thu 4:45
Paul (14A) Fri-Mon 1:55-7:10 Tue-Thu 7:10
Rango (PG) Fri-Mon 12:30-2:30-6:30 Tue-Thu 6:30
Sucker Punch (14A) Fri-Thu 9:10
Your Highness (14A) Fri-Thu 8:30

STRAWBERRY HILL GRANDE
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey, 604-501-9400

African Cats (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:30-9:50
Arthur (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40-3:20-6:40-9:30 Wed 3:35-6:40-9:30 Thu 12:40-3:20-6:40-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Dharti (STC) Fri-Thu 1-4-7:15-10:15
Dum Maaro Dum (14A) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:20-3:30-6:45-9:45 No Passes Tue-Thu 12:35-3:30-6:45-9:45
Fast Five (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01
Hanna (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:20-10:20
Hop (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:50-6:50-9:20
Insidious (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:10-9:40
Rio (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:50-3:40-6:30
Rio 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:10 No Passes Tue-Thu 1:45-4:45-7:30-10
Scream 4 (14A) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:30
Source Code (PG) Fri-Thu 9:15
Thank You (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:30-8
Water for Elephants (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:45-3:45-7:10 No Passes Wed 3:45-7:10 No Passes Thu 12:45-3:45-7:10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1

STUDIO 12 GUILDFORD
15051-101st Ave, Surrey, 604-581-1176

African Cats (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:30-4:15-7:15-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 4:15-7:15-9:45
Arthur (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:05-3:40-6:15-8:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 3:40-6:15-8:55
Dharti (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Fri-Mon 1:20-4:05-6:50-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Tue-Thu 4:05-6:50-9:40
Dum Maaro Dum (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Fri-Mon 1:35-4:35-7:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Tue-Thu 4:35-7:45
Hop (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1-3:35-6:35-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 3:35-6:35-9:10
Insidious (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 2-4:45-7:30-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 4:45-7:30-10:10
Rio (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:15-4-6:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 1:45-4-6:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 4-6:30
Rio 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:45-4:30-7-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 4:30-7-9:30
Scream 4 (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:55-4:40-7:25-10:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 4:40-7:25-10:05
Soul Surfer (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:50-3:30-6:20-9:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 3:30-6:20-9:05
Source Code (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Sub-Titled Fri-Mon 1:25-4:20-7:20-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Sub-Titled Tue-Thu 4:20-7:20-9:50
Water for Elephants (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:45-3:45-6:45-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 3:45-6:45-10
Your Highness (14A) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 9

RIALTO
1732-152nd Street, White Rock, 604-541-9527, criterionttheatres.com

Hanna (PG) Fri-Mon 2:10-7:10-9:20 Tue-Thu 7:10-9:20
Water for Elephants (PG) Fri-Mon 2-7-9:15 Tue-Thu 7-9:15

CRITERION 4 WHITE ROCK
2381 King George Highway, 604-531-7456, criterionttheatres.com

Arthur (PG) Fri-Thu 9:05
Hop (G) Fri-Mon 2-7 Tue-Thu 7
Limitless (PG) Fri-Mon 2:30-7:30-9:30 Tue-Thu 7:30-9:30
Rio (G) Fri-Mon 2:10-7:10-9:10 Tue-Thu 7:10-9:10
Scream 4 (14A) Fri-Mon 2:20-7:20-9:25 Tue-Thu 7:20-9:25

COLOSSUS LANGLEY
20090-91A Ave, Langley, 604-513-8747

The Adjustment Bureau (PG) Fri-Thu 9:25
African Cats (G) No Passes Fri-Mon 12-2:15-4:30-7-9:30 No Passes Tue 4:30-7-9:30 No Passes Wed 7-9:30 No Passes Thu 4:30-7-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 3
Arthur (PG) Fri-Mon 1:20-4:20-7:15-10:10 Tue-Thu 4:20-7:15-10:10
Born to Be Wild 3D (G) Fri-Mon 12-1:15-2:45-4:15-5:30-7 Tue-Wed 3:30-4:45-6-7:15 Thu 3:30-4:45-6
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (G) Fri-Mon 1:05-4:05-6:45 Tue-Thu 4:05-6:45
Fast Five (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01
Fast Five: The IMAX Experience (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01
Hanna (PG) Fri-Mon 12:40-3:25-6:55-9:50 Tue-Thu 3:45-6:55-9:50
Hop (G) Fri-Mon 1:15-3:45-6:50-9:15 Tue-Wed 3:45-6:40-9:15 Thu 3:45-6:40-9
Insidious (14A) Fri-Mon 1:35-4:45-7:40-10:15 Tue 4:45-7:40-10:15 Wed 4:45-10:15 Thu 4:45-7:40-10:15
Limitless (PG) Fri-Mon 12:25-3:35-7:25-10:20 Tue-Thu 3:35-7:25-10:20
The Lincoln Lawyer (14A) Fri-Mon 12:20-3:40-6:50-9:55 Tue-Thu 3:40-6:50-9:55
Memphis (PG) Thu 7
The Metropolitan Opera: Capriccio (STC) Sat 10
Mulroney: The Opera (G) Wed 7
Paul (14A) Fri-Mon 1:25-4:25-7:50-10:30 Tue 4:25-7:50-10:30 Wed-Thu 4:25-10:30
Rango (PG) Fri-Mon 1:30
Rio (G) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:45-3:30-6:30-9 No Passes Tue 3:30-6:25-9 No Passes Wed-Thu 3:30-6:30-9
Rio 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:15-2:40-5-7:20-9:45 No Passes Tue-Thu 4-7:10-9:40
Scream 4 (14A) Fri-Mon 1:10-4:15-7:45-10:30 Tue-Thu 4:15-7:45-10:30 Fri-Mon 12:50-3:50-7:10-10 Tue-Thu 3:50-7:10-10
Soul Surfer (G) Fri-Mon 12:55-4-7:05-9:40 Tue-Thu 4-7:05-9:40
Source Code (PG) Fri-Mon 1-4:10-7:05-9:35 Tue-Thu 4:10-7:05-9:35
Sucker Punch (14A) Fri-Thu 4:40-7:30-10:15
Sucker Punch: The IMAX Experience (14A) Fri-Tue 8:45
Water for Elephants (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:35-3:55-7:15-10:05 No Passes Tue 3:55-7:15-10:05 No Passes Wed 7:15-10:05 No Passes Thu 3:55-7:15-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 3
Your Highness (14A) Fri-Mon 1:40-4:35-7:35-10:25 Tue-Thu 4:35-7:35-10:25

TWILIGHT DRIVE-IN
260th Street & Fraser Highway, Langley, 604-856-5063

Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son (PG) Fri-Sat 12
Paul (14A) Fri-Thu 10:15
Rio (G) Fri-Thu 8:30

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Metro and Lady Gaga have teamed up for a Special Edition Metro Life Panel survey and she wants answers from YOU!
Survey will be emailed to panelists the week of April 25.
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metro life panel

"GRIPPING! ZACH BRAFF AND ISABELLE BLAIS ARE BOTH TREMENDOUS!"
Kim Hughes - *Inmovies.ca*

"THE ACTING IS SUBLIME! BLAIS AND BRAFF DAZZLE!"
Adam A. Donaldson - *Press+1.com*

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Graduating to the stage

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Camille Mitchell as Mrs. Robinson and Kayvon Khoshkam as Braddock star in the stage production of The Graduate.

BACKSTAGE PASS

GRAEME MCRANOR
METRO VANCOUVER

"Mrs. Robinson, you're trying to seduce me," is a line made famous by Dustin Hoffman's character Benjamin Braddock in The Graduate.

The iconic rom-com from 1967 just might be the greatest influence, besides hormones, on young males' collective quest to bed chain-smoking, self-proclaimed-alcoholic older women whose husbands, naturally, won't be home for hours.

Of course, The Graduate, which was based on the book by Charles Webb, is also a great film. And now it's a play too. Adapted for the stage by Terry Johnson and directed for the Arts Club here in Vancouver by Lois Anderson.

"I wanted a director who could balance the sensibilities of the play," says Arts Club artistic managing director, Bill Millerd.

"Lois has a warm, generous sense of humour and a singular style of theatricality that has its roots in the clown work that she did early in her acting career.

The adaptation of the film into a play brings with it very challenging design and staging questions — just the kind of problem that directors like Lois relish tackling.

"There's no doubt that her vision will bring fresh energy to this classic story."

The Graduate stars Kayvon Khoshkam as Braddock, Camille Mitchell as Mrs. Robinson and Celine Stubel as her daughter, Elaine.

It runs until May 14 at the Granville Island Stage. Tickets are $29-$49.

Visit artsclub.ca for more.

Big Tickets

- Rod Stewart and Stevie Nicks co-headline the Heart & Soul tour, landing in Vancouver tomorrow night at Rogers Arena. Tickets start at $25 and go all the way up to a very dear $235. Show starts at 7:30 p.m.
- Britney Spears brings her Femme Fatale tour to Vancouver's Rogers Arena July 1. Special guests include Nicki Minaj, Jessie and the Toy Boys and Nervo. Tickets for the show go on sale Saturday, May 7 at 10 a.m.

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▶ Charlie Sheen

Judge keeping kids from Sheen

Despite his estranged wife, Brooke Mueller, reportedly having a drug relapse last week and entering rehab this week, Charlie Sheen did not win back custody of his twin sons, Max and Bob, according to Radar Online.

A Los Angeles judge decided to continue Mueller's primary custody of the boys, though her mother will be watching them while she completes her treatment.

Charlie Sheen has been touring North America on a speaking tour that has been met with mixed reviews.

METRO

Celebrity tweets

@ImTracyMorgan

"Facebook asks what I'm thinking. Twitter asks what I'm doing. Foursquare asks where I am. The internet has turned into a crazy girlfriend."

@Joan_Rivers

"Trump allegedly hired detectives to find Obama's birth certificate. He could have made it a task on Celebrity Apprentice and saved money."

@emmyrossum

"Sat out by the pool for a bit and now my iphone now says it wont work because of temperature?? So, I put in in the fridge."

@howiemandel

"Spent over 13 hours setting up a zip line in my bedroom. Then I just hit a wall"

Black getting death threats

Police in Anaheim, Calif., are investigating a pair of death threats made against YouTube viral video sensation Rebecca Black, known for her song Friday, according to Reuters.

"In essence, the threats were related to getting the music off the Internet or they were going to kill her," a police spokesman says, adding that one threat was made by phone and the other by email.

"We can't validate how serious they are."

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▶ Rebecca Black

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CATWALKING

Move boldly into sprinter

That's a term some fashion people have started using to refer to those cold weather pieces mixed in with all the summery items hitting stores right now. It sounds oxymoronic, but in the fashion world, it's perfectly logical.

KENYA HUNT
METRO WORLD NEWS

Fur stoles for spring? Sheer skirts for the dead of winter?

These days, it all makes perfect sense, with fashion designers paying little attention to the season for which they're creating clothing.

Yes, we all still need warm coats when it's cold out and something light and airy to wear in the heat.

But in the past year, some of those old rules like, say, thou shalt only wear sandals in summer, have changed.

From a business perspective, fashion houses are finally taking a look at the timing in which their clothes hit stores and the fact that women don't necessarily want to have to wait three to four months to be able to wear their spring or winter scores.

"The fact of the matter is, the weather is still very cold in most countries by the time the spring collections hit. It's a slightly old-fashioned mentality to be so controlled by the season," Zowie Broach, one-half of the London-based design duo Boudicca says of the phenomenon some editors have taken to calling "sprinter." She created fur-collared wool coats for her spring collection because she knew that "there are women in Russia who will buy these in March.

But even if the customer is in Las Vegas, she might want to wear that coat over a beautiful chiffon dress on a chilly night."

Prada's hugely popular spring collection featured outsize brightly colored fur stoles that at first glance seemed like an odd choice for the season, but ended up being one of the most coveted pieces of the year with shoppers snapping them up as soon as they hit stores in late February.

A cold-weather perfect jacket from Burberry Prorsum's spring/summer collection.

Meanwhile, Burberry Prorsum showed quilted leather jackets that could work just as well in January as April.

"Right now, it's less about 'spring' or 'summer' and more that it's a 'new season.' When it's cold out, you want a new, great coat. It's as simple as that," Broach says.

"Women want to buy and wear things immediately. The hunter/gatherer isn't storing anymore," she adds.

Global e-commerce sites like Net-a-Porter further stoke the winds of change.

"As an international business, seasonless dressing is very relevant to us," says Holli Rogers, buying director at Net-a-Porter.

"There is nothing more frustrating than not being able to find something when you need it most. Many of the brands we stock now offer multiple collections that include pre, cruise and high summer.

"With this increased frequency of new arrivals throughout the year, we can offer more choice to our customer wherever she may be, from New York to Australia to Moscow," she adds.

Anna dello Russo wearing a wintry look from the Prada spring collection right after it hit stores, in winter.

3 life

Fashion fact

China
The Far East continues to be the promised land for luxury fashion brands. Burberry Prorsum just opened a flagship store in Beijing and will be having a lavish runway show there that will be streamed live on the company's Web site on April 13.

Daily life of African cats inspired jewelery designer and film-inspired pendant

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Beauty picks

SOLID PERFUMES

A blast of spray perfume can overwhelm in the heat. Replace it with a solid version for summer, which can actually be a bit lighter due to the fact that it allows you to control how much you wear — and how strong you smell. L'Occitane's Rose 4 Reines has a light floral touch that won't necessarily encourage the mosquitoes to come calling. Meanwhile Le Labo and Anthropologie have collaborated to create a sweet and delicate summery mix of mandarin and musk called Orange Discrete. For something a bit headier to be worn into the night, try Diptyque's enchanting Eau Duelle with rich notes of vanilla and frankincense.

ROMINA MCGUINNESS

L'OCCITANE

Rose 4 Reines: Rose
$9
loccitane.com

LE LABO & ANTHROPOLOGIE

Orange Discrete: petigrain, bergamot, mandarin zest and orange blossom mixed with vetiver, cedar and musk
$28,
anthropologie.com

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WEEKEND, APRIL 21-24, 2011

ISTOCK IMAGES

FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS

Hidden costs of home buying

Before you buy your first home, consider these 10 forgotten costs to include in your budget

ALISON GRIFFITHS
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
ALISONGRIFFITHS.CA

When Marcelle, 29, and Janeen, 31, bought their first home — a new condo near funky Whyte Avenue in Edmonton — they were determined not to join the house-poor crowd. So they saved up a 25 per cent downpayment, said no to upgrades and bought used furnishings.

But six months later they were in trouble. They hadn't anticipated a host of expenses that tipped their purchase from affordable to "it hurts!" Consider these 10 frequently forgotten costs when you do your budget.

Interest adjustments
This covers any gap between closing date and first mortgage payment. Avoid it by lining up the closing date and first payment to be exactly a month apart.

Mortgage insurance
This is typically required by lenders if your downpayment is 20 per cent or less (to a minimum of five per cent).

Home inspection
The average is around $100 an hour, though some home inspectors charge by house size.

Survey (certificate of location)
If there isn't a current one available, plan on spending from $750 to $1,500.

Legal costs
These vary but average $1,500 to $2,500.

Property appraisal
This may be required by your lender, though some include it as part of the mortgage package. Otherwise plan on $150 to $300.

Home insurance
This is an often-overlooked item when calculating monthly payments. Get at least two estimates.

Vendor reimbursements
This is necessary for items like taxes and fuel, which the vendor paid in advance.

Land transfer tax
Loathed by home buyers, this tax may be levied in your area. Ask about reductions for first-time buyers.

Condo costs
These can include a parking spot, in-advance monthly condo fees, PST\HST on appliances, occupancy fees, tax on upgrades and warranty enrolment fees.

A little prep in advance of purchase ensures you won't be hit by sticker shock at closing.

Variable or fixed

- **A variable rate** will change with interest rates while a fixed rate is, well, fixed for a specified term.
- **Economist Moishe Milevsky's** research indicates that a variable rate saves money 90 per cent of the time, as much as 50 per cent of the interest paid over the life of the mortgage.
- **But if certainty** means you'll sleep at night, fixed may be more suitable, even though you'll pay for the security.

ISTOCK

▶ The top renovation expenditures are kitchens and baths.

Weighing in on upgrades

DUNCAN MCALLISTER
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Home renovation is a $50-billion industry in Canada, and most builders will offer a variety of upgrade options ranging from appliances and bathroom fixtures to floor coverings, countertops, doors and decks. The trick is to know how much to spend.

"The top two renovation expenditures are the same no matter where you go — that's kitchens and baths," says Peter Simpson, president of the Greater Vancouver Home Builders' Association.

As far as upgrades are concerned, the sky is the limit. "We're finding that over the past few years the number of products available has increased significantly so the choices are enormous," says Simpson.

Ben Young, COO of Ramar Homes in Halifax, says the tendency used to be larger homes, but potential buyers are now looking more for interior features, or the "fit and finish" as he calls it.

"They're paying attention to things like their kitchens. Granite countertops are becoming much more popular," Young said.

From an investment perspective, any improvements you make will add to the resale value of the home, but only up to a point.

You may prefer to add your own improvements after the fact. Maybe you'd like to upgrade the kitchen floor to a nicer tile, for example.

But Simpson warns that any work that you or another contractor performs after you've moved in is not covered by the warranty on the house.

How to find the right realtor

The real estate market traditionally heats up each spring, and for first-time homebuyers, finding the right realtor is an important step to help you on your search. Here's a checklist on how to find the right one for you.

- Get recommendations from family and friends.
- Cruise neighbourhoods you like, and write down the names of realtors on the For Sale signs.
- Visit open houses to meet realtors face-to-face.
- Ask for references, and check to see if any of the realtor's references are relatives.
- Ask how long the realtor has been in business, and if he or she has up-to-date training.
- The home will require additional work, such as home inspections, renovations, legal advice or mortgage advice, and the realtor should be able to give you a list of options for each of these services.
- You want a person who is assertive, but also someone you can work well with. Be sure you feel comfortable with the person.
- Make sure your realtor is someone who will be available by phone and email, and takes time to go over paperwork with you.

SHAINA LUCK

ISTOCK

▶ Start crunching numbers before you shop for your first home so you know what you can actually afford.

Get down with down payments

It's best to minimize your debt load by maximizing your down payment
Otherwise you pay an insurance premium on your mortgage

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

What exactly is a down payment on a new home?

"Any lender wants you to have some of your money going into a home purchase alongside the lender's money. That's basically the function of a down payment," says Geoff Parkin, president of the Vancouver-based Mortgage Brokers Association of B.C.

And, as with most payment programs, the more you put down the less you owe later.

The federal law states that anytime you borrow more than 80 per cent of the value of a home, you have to be insured against default by one of Canada's three mortgage insurance companies.

"So we add an insurance premium to the home buyer's mortgage. So for that $400,000 home where you're putting $20,000 down, you might have another $8,000 added onto your mortgage as an insurance premium."

The premiums are calculated by how much your down payment involves starting at 80 to 85 per cent (of the total cost), then 85 to 90 per cent and then 90 to 95 per cent. "Obviously as you get higher, you've put less down on your down payment, the premiums go up," says Parkin.

So how to calculate what you need to put down on that $500,000 three-bedroom home you're in love with?

"Take the cost and multiply it by five per cent, and that tells you what your minimum down payment is," says Donna Mullen, a broker/owner with Your Mortgage Store in Wasaga Beach, Ont.

In this case, you would put down $25,000. But as Mullen reminds us, that five per cent is only the minimum — even though there are programs available offering cash-back incentives to pay off personal debt.

That allows you to free up more money for the down payment and lets you virtually go through 100 per cent financing for your first home, keeping in mind you'll pay the price in higher insurance premiums for at least the first five years of your mortgage.

"But five per cent is where you have to start from. If you have more to put down, that's awesome because the more you put down, your mortgage insurance premium goes down and you save money."

To keep that down payment in mind, Parkin suggests crunching numbers before you start house hunting.

"Always get preapproved for a mortgage before you go shopping — go through the math to see what you can afford, especially if the market is active," he says.

Sources

- **While it's best** to minimize your debt load by using your own savings for a down payment, other options include a financial gift from a family member, combining your cash with money from an existing line of credit or tapping into your RRSPs.
- **The Homebuyer Mortgage Program** lets you take up to $20,000 out of RRSPs without paying tax on it, if it's for the purchase of your first home. "It's for first-time homebuyers only," says Parkin. "That can then be repaid over 15 years in equal instalments and there are no tax consequences."
- **That's on top of** your amortization, or the number of years it takes you to pay off your mortgage — changes to the federal law in March dropped the length of amortization from 35 years to 30 years.

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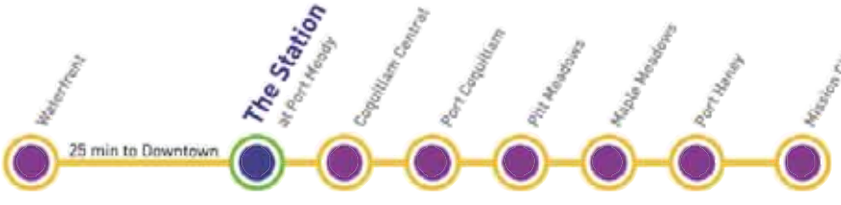

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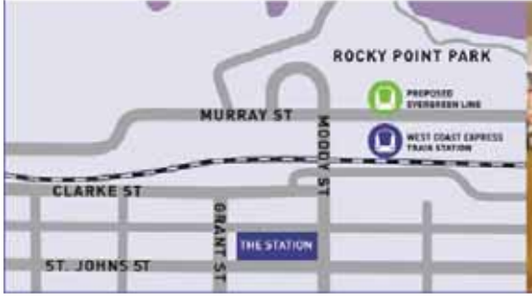

Fall in love, carefully

If you follow your head as well as your heart, your dream home will also be your best investment

KELLY PUTTER
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

FLICKR: WOODLEYWONDERWORKS

▶ Don't take your chances — experts say it's worth investing the time to know exactly what you're buying into.

First-time homebuyers should behave like investors because that's how they'll save money and ultimately live a happier life, says Don Campbell, a Vancouver real estate expert.

"If you prefer not to save money, then think like a homebuyer," says Campbell, an investor who analyzes and writes about the Canadian real estate industry.

And while it's tough to approach your first home with your brain instead of your heart, Campbell recommends looking for certain criteria in the area you like that will encourage you to make a wise decision.

"You fall in love with a house in a neighbourhood that has a future and not a past," he says. "Buy in an area where the property values will go up."

Buying close to a train or LRT station is a good idea because those properties are predicted to rise in value 15 per cent more than similar properties that aren't near a station, he says.

It's also smart to work your mortgage like an investor, says Campbell. So on a $300,000 variable-rate mortgage, choose to pay back the higher monthly payment of a five-year locked-in mortgage.

Yes, the payment is more than you're required to pay, but 100 per cent of the extra payment goes off the principal. After five years, you'll have paid the same total as a locked-in mortgage, but with this method a lot more comes off your principal and you've paid a lot less in interest payments.

Determining a few key factors before hitting the bricks is a good idea for first-time homebuyers, says Rob Faulkner, president of the Nova Scotia Association of Realtors.

Faulkner says it is vital that buyers determine what they can afford, choose a few locations that work for their lifestyle and buy a home based on lifestyle and the ability to maintain it.

Check it out

Home inspections provide impartial snapshots on the condition of a home.

- Expect a report highlighting major deficiencies, if any, and a comprehensive description detailing the shape of the furnace, the roof, the foundation and so on.
- Find Registered Home Inspectors (RHI) at cahpi.ca. The average inspection cost is $400.

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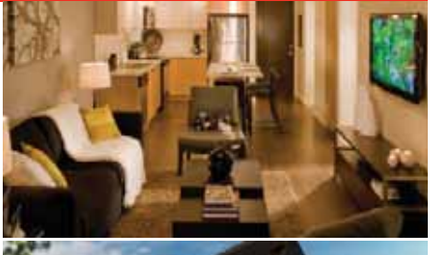
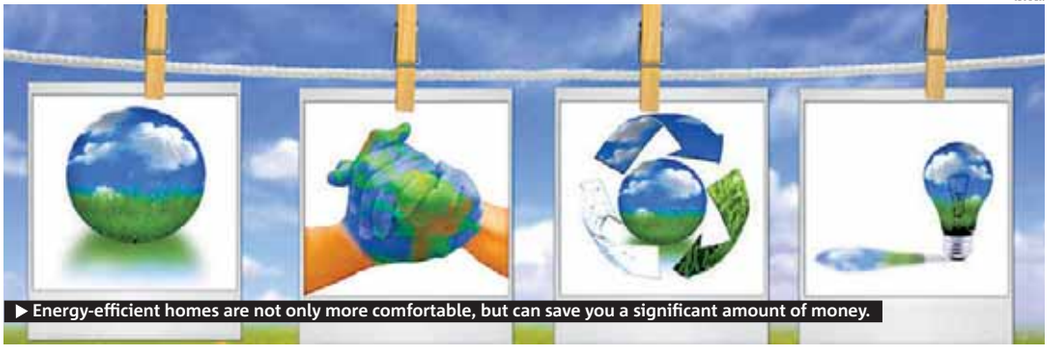


Why pick a green home?

Here are four reasons to choose an energy-efficient new home

ISTOCK



▶ Energy-efficient homes are not only more comfortable, but can save you a significant amount of money.

Energy savings
Today, 17 per cent of all energy used in Canada goes toward running our homes. We consume a significant amount of energy for heating our homes in the winter and cooling them in the summer — and don't forget about the energy we use to heat water used for bathing and cleaning. Imagine the savings on your energy bills if you choose an energy-efficient new home.

Better to live in
Energy-efficient homes have fewer of those uncomfortable drafts and cold spots. Some homes have specially designed ventilation systems that bring fresh outdoor air in and send stale indoor air out. R-2000 certified homes, for example, are built using healthier building materials, such as low VOC (volatile organic compounds) paints, flooring and cabinets to further improve the indoor air quality in your home.

Did you know?

- **On average,** 17 per cent of all energy used in Canada goes toward running our homes, generating 15 per cent of the country's greenhouse gas emission in Canada.
- **By using less energy** in our home, we can help reduce the production of greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change and harm the environment.

Better for the environment
Most of the energy we consume in Canada comes from fossil fuels. As a result, the energy we save in heating, cooling and powering our home will help reduce our environmental footprint. In addition, using energy-efficient light bulbs, low-flow showerheads and water-conserving toilets will all contribute to a greener home. Many new energy-efficient homes are being built using insulation, drywall or wood trim that were manufactured using recycled materials.

Affordability
Buying expensive, custom-built homes used to be the only way to acquire an energy-efficient home. Today, thanks to initiatives such as the EnerGuide rating system, R-2000 Standard, and ENERGY STAR for New Homes, consumers looking to achieve greater energy efficiency at home have a much wider array of energy-efficient options to choose from, even in tract-built homes.

If you are planning to build or buy a new home in the coming months, spend some time on the NRCan website at newhomes.nrcan.gc.ca or call 1-800-O–Canada for more information on the various energy-efficiency programs that are available in Canada. **NEWS CANADA**

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▶ A new home lets you customize features.

New or resale — choose what's right for you

There are advantages either way — it just depends on what fits your lifestyle

ALEX NEWMAN
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Shopping for your first house can be fun — especially seeing what's new in home decor — but with all the choice, making a decision can be a challenge. A good place to start is either new or resale.

"Whether it's your first time buying or your 10th, deciding depends on personal preference and location," says Elton Ash, regional executive vice president of ReMax Canada West in Kelowna, B.C.

It's hard to deny the appeal of a brand new home with all the latest in kitchens, baths, fixtures, he says, and there's a warranty that backs the building, foundation, finishes, etc.

A resale home's biggest appeal is its history — being in an established area, solidly appreciating value, nearby retail, schools, green space, plus a sense of neighbourhood.

But location is a multifaceted issue, Ash adds. New homes are usually found in subdivisions, so there's commuting if you work downtown. That adds to the time and money bottom line, so that needs to be weighed with the house price. Ash has noticed an increased desire for suburbs with good rapid transit connections. The new suburban home also offers lots of home — both in size and lifestyle extras — for the money.

OLD OR NEW

Don't forget closing costs

It's important to ask about all the various costs of a new or resale home. Resale homes have set closing dates and costs: the house is already built, and closing costs are roughly 1.5 per cent of the purchase price. New homes can be a different story, says Rodney Litigio, a Toronto mortgage consultant with buyingblock.com: What you see in the sales brochure, for example, may not be what you get, so "when you sign a new purchase agreement, always try to make the sales brochure part of the agreement."

The same goes for closing costs. New homes are subject to additional municipal levies, so closing can cost up to 4 per cent of the purchase price. Litigio says you can negotiate to cap how much you'll pay of those closing levies, with the developer picking up the rest.

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The Royal decor frenzy

Karl Lohnes offers tips for helping you decorate to celebrate Prince William and Kate's big day

DESIGN CENTRE

KARL LOHNES
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

It's only one week away from the Royal wedding and the world has all eyes focused on Britain.

It's only natural that home decorating fanatics cash in and do a little royal decorating to celebrate this historical soiree.

Forget about the stodgy gold-rimmed teapots and dollar bin tea towels, here's a list of fabulous British-inspired decorating accessories that are sure to turn your house into a royal celebration of its own.

Its always nice to have a reminder of the Royal wedding. I'm not quite sure what happened to the porcelain platter of Charles and Diana I purchased at their wedding. Most likely ended up in a yard sale many moons ago.

This time around I might buy something trendy that I'll be proud enough to display.

The Big Ben Clock from Urban Barn ($80) is 4-feet tall and would look fabulous hung on the small wall in the foyer.

SUBMITTED

▶ Crown and Coronet wallpaper from Graham and Brown Wallpaper, Home Depot.

Never to be late and always in style!

I'm thinking a large printed wallpaper would look great hung inside my walk-in closet for impact.

The illusion of having many crowns just might start a few royal rumours amongst those who visit.

In terms of entertaining, I'm thinking of waking up early and having a royal brunch at the house. Serving things like Cream of Earl Grey Tea from David's Tea in my new Keep Calm mugs from Keepcalmandcarryon.ca and serving up a custom English Garden Wedding ice cream cake from Baskin Robbins will add a punch of British whimsy to the occasion.

Am I that crazy about the Royals? I am considering painting my small den a vibrant purple and Royal Throne P5149-63 from Para Paints is on the top of my list!

Teamed with some dark brown wood furniture, a charcoal grey upholstered sofa and a funky Union Jack wall plaque from Urban Outfitters, and I'll achieve a room handsome enough to attract any Prince.

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▶ Custom Royal wedding ice cream cake from Baskin Robbins, from $29.

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Preparing the backyard for spring

Time to bring out the gardening tools, strap on the boots, and return to green pastures

Backyard season is almost here and in anticipation of sunny skies and warm weather, DIY Network Canada's Turf War (Mondays at 9 p.m. ET/PT) has a few tips on how to get your yard in tip-top shape.

Walk the Perimeter

Spring showers have washed away the snow, but chances are they've also exposed a messy lawn.

Prior to rolling out the lawnmower, make sure to pick up any sticks, stones or other debris that has made their way into your yard.

While wearing protective gloves, pull up any dead plants or weeds in the garden to loosen the soil and make room for new sprouts. Walk around the house to assess the foundation of the house. Check for cracks and pools of water that threaten to leak into the basement.

Check and Clean

Take an inventory of your garden tools and check hoes, trowels, rakes and shovels for cracks and splintering.

Rubbing linseed oil on wooden tool handles can prevent splintering, which in turn diminishes the chance of personal injury.

Consider replacing tools that are on their last leg so that garden projects won't be interrupted by a suddenly broken tool.

Snowy winter weather also leaves grime and fungi on the surface of the patio deck.

Prior to dragging out the patio furniture, give the deck a proper wash.

Make your own cleaning formula by mixing a cup of laundry detergent with four litres of hot water.

Pour the liquid onto the patio and use a bristled brush to get out the tough stains. Rinse off the entire deck with water and allow it to dry completely.

Prune Away

Some garden plants, such as rose bushes and hydrangeas, require pruning in order to remain healthy and produce new blooms. Pruning is most successful when it's done while the blooms are still dormant.

Using pruning shears, make a clean, angled cut a quarter inch above an outward-facing bud.

Continue this technique across the entire plant. As well, cut back any dead stems. The more you prune, the more room there will be for new blooms.

DIY NETWORK CANADA'S HOUSE CRASHERS AIRS ON WEDNESDAYS AT 9 P.M. ET/PT AND 9:30 P.M. ET/PT)

ISTOCK

▶ Did you know that rubbing linseed oil on wooden tool handles can prevent splintering?

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Don't be afraid to slice that tree

Visitors to my garden this time of year are often astonished to see me lopping the tops off some of my trees.

No, I'm not the Henry VIII of horticulture, chopping the head off any tree that no longer meets my fancy. OK, I am actually lopping the head off any tree that doesn't meet my fancy.

I part ways with Ol' Henry, though, because first, lopping the head off a tree does not kill it, and second, I graft on a new head. A few years after this seemingly brutal operation, the tree looks as chipper as ever.

And it has a head that I like better — or else off it comes again.

I do this type of grafting, called topworking, mostly on my apple trees, but it could be applied to many other kinds of fruit or ornamental trees.

For instance, if you don't like the growth habit of your red maple or the leaf shape of your Japanese maple, you can just lop back the head and change it. Same goes for the flower colour of a crab apple or flowering cherry.

GATHER YOUR STEMS

Before you can topwork any tree, you have to have stems, called scions, of the variety to which you want to change the plant.

You might get scions from a neighbour's or friend's tree that you have admired.

I often get scions for grafting mailed to me from enthusiasts elsewhere across our fruited plain, or from government institutions. Healthy portions of last year's growth, each cut into pieces a foot or so long, are ideal to become scions. They can be collected anytime in winter or early spring, as long as stems are showing no signs of growth and temperatures are above freezing.

A FEW CUTS AND YOU'RE FINISHED

The ideal time for topworking is when buds on the trunk are just beginning to grow; the scions are still under refrigeration in their winter sleep.

This way, the scion will have time to knit to the lopped-back trunk and hook up its plumbing before its buds expand into thirsty new shoots.

The actual grafting operation is simple, and there are a few ways to go about it.

Cleft grafting, for example, is practised by gardeners for thousands of years and best done on trunks 2.5 to 10 centimetres across.

Wedge grafting and bark grafting are among other methods of topworking, described in such books as The Grafter's Handbook by R. J. Garner (Sterling Publishing, 1993) and Plant Propagation: Principles and Practices by H. Hartmann, D. Kester, F. Davies and R. Geneve (Prentice-Hall, 2010).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drying

If your timing is right, and trunk and scions are in good contact, the only remaining threat to success is from the cut ends drying out. Avoid this by thoroughly coating all cut surfaces, including the tips of the scions, with some sort of pruning paint or grafting wax. My favourite is a gooey black stuff called "Treekote."

LEE REICH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Chopping and grafting may look brutal but it can result in beautiful fruit trees.

An effortless yet elegant Easter dinner

This Four-Hour Leg of Lamb is an example of the wonders you can work when you're not even in the kitchen Its flavour will 'wow' your guests

DINNER EXPRESS

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

Easter dinner isn't meant to be a rushed affair. And neither should the meat you serve. But it doesn't mean you have to work particularly hard at it. This flavourful, slowly roasted leg of lamb from Sarah Raven's cookbook, Fresh From the Garden is simple but elegant.

BOTH PHOTOS: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ MATTHEW MEAD

▶ This recipe cooks the lamb to well done. If you prefer the lamb less done, start by checking it after three hours until it reaches the desired temperature.

Preparation:

1. In very large resealable plastic bag, combine wine, garlic, cumin, coriander, olive oil, salt and pepper. Mix well. Add the leg of lamb, close the bag and toss well to cover. Stand the bag upright (or double bag) in a large bowl and refrigerate for 24 to 48 hours, turning the bag every few hours to coat the meat.

2. In large roasting pan, arrange carrots, onions, leeks and garlic in an even layer. Place the leg of lamb over the vegetables, then pour the marinade in the bag over everything. Roast in 300 F (140 C) for 4 1/2 hours. Remove the pan from the oven and transfer lamb to a serving platter. Cover the lamb with foil, then a layer of kitchen towels. Let rest for 30 minutes.

3. **Gravy:** Meanwhile, heat stock in saucepan over low. Use a slotted spoon to discard vegetables from the roasting pan. Let the liquid in the pan rest for several minutes, then spoon off any visible fat. Set the roasting pan over 1 or 2 burners and heat over medium, scraping the bottom with a wooden spoon to loosen any stuck bits. Sprinkle in the flour and cook, stirring constantly, for another 1 to 2 minutes.

4. Slowly pour the hot stock into the roasting pan, stirring until it becomes a smooth gravy. Stir in the port and jelly, then simmer for 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper Slice the lamb and serve with the gravy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ FRESH FROM THE GARDEN BY SARAH RAVEN (UNIVERSE, 2011)

Ingredients:

- 1 bottle (750 mL) dry white wine
- 5 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) each cumin and coriander seeds, toasted and coarsely ground
- 5 tbsp (75 mL) olive oil
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) each salt and ground black pepper
- 1 leg of lamb (about 5- to 5 1/2-lb/2.2 to 2.45 kg)
- 3 carrots, chopped
- 2 onions, chopped
- 3 leeks, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic

Gravy:

- 2 cups (500 mL) meat stock
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) flour
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) port or red wine
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) red currant jelly
- Salt and black pepper

Artichoke & Asparagus Salad

While the Easter dinner meat is an affair not meant to be rushed, doesn't the side dishes can't be made quickly. Here is an easy Artichoke and Asparagus Salad. It not only celebrates Easter but also the spring season.

Preparation:

1. Bring large pot of water to boil. Set a large bowl of ice water next to the stove.

2. Blanch asparagus in the boiling water for about 4 minutes or until bright green and just tender. Transfer to the ice water to cool and stop the cooking. Drain well.

3. In large bowl, whisk together oil, vinegar, thyme, Dijon mustard, lemon rind and juice, salt and pepper. Gently toss the drained asparagus spears and the artichoke hearts in the dressing.

4. Serve sprinkled with the feta cheese.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EMILY RICHARDS EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA.

Ingredients:

- 2 bunches fresh asparagus, trimmed
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) olive oil
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) white balsamic vinegar
- 2 tsp (10 mL) chopped fresh thyme
- 1 tsp (5 mL) Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp (5 mL) grated lemon rind
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) each salt and ground black pepper
- 2 cans (14 oz/425 mL each) artichoke hearts, drained
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) crumbled feta cheese

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Sip wine & save the planet

Some wineries are teaming up with environmental organizations to raise funds for eco-friendly many causes

Sip a pinot, save the planet?

That's the thinking behind wineries teaming up with environmental organizations to raise funds for trees, seas and land.

One of the latest releases is Clean Coast wines, the brainchild of California winemaker Susie Selby.

The owner of Selby Winery in Healdsburg, Selby created the wines, available online and in Mississippi and Louisiana, with the goal of raising awareness of the Gulf Coast recovery effort.

"I spend a lot of time in Louisiana. It's just a place that's near and dear to my heart," Selby said. After the 2010 oil spill she decided she wanted to do something to help the area on a long-term basis, so she came up with Clean Coast wines.

"I'm inspired by the way the people of New Orleans and Louisiana choose to handle crisis. They love each other; they make the most of it and they frequently do it with a great meal in front of them and a glass of wine in their hand," she said.

The four wines — pinot noir, chardonnay, cabernet sauvignon and merlot — carry labels decorated with marine creatures. Four dollars from every bottle sold online is donated to the Greater New Orleans Community Foundation.

Another wine-to-water connection is being made by Flying Fish, which makes wines from grapes grown in Washington state's Columbia Valley.

"We thought we'd like to really honour the waters that are home to the fish that are featured on the label," said Karmen Olson-Stevens, brand marketing manager.

Since launching in 2004, the winery has donated a portion of proceeds to Ocean Conservancy, for a current total of nearly $70,000. The money is earmarked for the organization's annual international coastal cleanup and last year went to the Gulf cleanup efforts.

Other wineries are branching out in different eco-related charitable directions.

Pine Ridge Vineyards in the Napa Valley announced it will donate $1 to American Forests for every bottle of the chenin blanc-viognier wine sold from April to June to help plant up to 5,000 trees.

And Root 1, produced in Chile, is a long-standing partner of Global ReLeaf, a branch of American Forests. By the end of 2011, winery officials estimate Root 1 and Global ReLeaf will have planted more than 40,000 trees in global forest restoration projects.

Meanwhile, every year Hess Winery in the Napa Valley holds a chardonnay month during which one per cent of profits on sales of chardonnay are donated under the "1 Per cent for the Planet" environmental advocacy program. Year-round, the winery donates one per cent of profits from its Hess Small Block Series limited selection wines.

And Hess, which is in its fourth year of participating in the project, recently made grants of $10,000 to The Land Trust of Napa County and another $10,000 to the Napa County Student & Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship program.

The charity-wine connection is a natural fit for an industry that seeks to connect with consumers on a personal level, Olson-Stevens notes.

"First of all, we do it because we care about the oceans and rivers and we're committed to making a change," said Olson-Stevens. "But it also gives us a story to tell our consumers." Wine is known for starting conversations, and having an environmental tie-in is one more thing to talk about along with where the wine came from, how it's made and how it tastes, she said.

For Selby, raising money for eco-causes is a way to cut through the intimidating image that associated with wine.

"It's an honour to give back through wine," she said. "People still enjoy the food and wine experience, but they're also able to make a difference."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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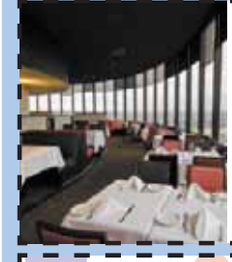

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Canucks Game Day

SCOTT RINTOUL

JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES

Hawks alive in five

The Blackhawks served notice that they're not planning on going quietly with a 7-2 win on home ice, but the historical data strongly suggests it's only a matter of time

Though the Philadelphia Flyers rallied from a 3-0 series deficit to beat the Bruins last spring, only three teams have ever overcome the steep odds of pulling off the comeback. The Blackhawks aren't included in that trio; in fact, Chicago is 0-17 in such situations while the Canucks have never blown a 3-0 series lead.

While Vancouver hasn't advanced past the second round since that memorable run to the Stanley Cup final in 1994, the Canucks have not lost a first-round series since falling to the Calgary Flames in seven games back in 2004.

JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES

Super Dave

After missing seventeen games with a concussion, David Bolland was sensational in his return to the Hawks lineup, racking up four points and a plus-4 rating in Game 4. Bolland has now collected 15 points in 13 career playoff games versus Vancouver, and Chicago is 9-4 in those games.

NAM Y. HUH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hit me baby, one more time

The Hawks out-hit the Canucks 44-33 in Game 4, the first time Chicago has bested Vancouver in that department through four games. The Canucks hold the series edge with 163 hits to the Blackhawks' 143, with 92 of Vancouver's collisions coming on home ice.

JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES

Return of a rear-guard?

Delta native Brent Seabrook missed Game 4 due to the effects of that controversial Raffi Torres hit on Sunday. Seabrook, however, made the trip to Vancouver and could possibly suit up for Thursday's tilt.

NAM Y. HUH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No Looooouuu-sing streak allowed

Over the past three months, Roberto Luongo has only lost back-to-back games on two occasions. The last time it happened was in late February, and he has gone 17 straight starts without consecutive losses.

Canucks look to finish Chicago

The sooner the Chicago Blackhawks are finished, the better it will be for the Vancouver Canucks.

Vancouver has pushed the Blackhawks to the brink of elimination by taking a 3-1 lead in their NHL Western Conference quarter-final series.

The Canucks want to give the Hawks that final shove Thursday night (CBC, 7 p.m.) to extinguish any flickering hopes the defending Stanley Cup champions have of climbing back into the best-of-seven series.

Sometimes it's good to go through things like this. It humbles us, puts us back in our place."
CANUCKS FORWARD RAFFI TORRES

"You need to have that mentality that you have to finish them off," Canuck forward Daniel Sedin said Wednesday after practice.

"If there's a Game 6 or a Game 7, it's a different series. You are happy being up 3-1. We have home ice and this is a rink we love to play in. We will be ready."

The Canucks blew a chance to sweep the Hawks out of the playoffs when Chicago pounded them 7-2 in Tuesday night's Game 4. It was the first time in the series the Hawks showed flashes of the team that has eliminated Vancouver from the playoffs the last two seasons.

Defenceman Kevin Bieksa said the lopsided loss will only be a problem if the Canucks dwell on it.

"It's essential we put it behind us and move forward," said Bieksa.

"If we come out with a different mindset and play the way we did in the first three games, we should be fine." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

NHL's top GMs

Vancouver's Mike Gillis, Nashville's David Poile and Tampa Bay's Steve Yzerman are the three finalists for the 2010-11 NHL General Manager of the Year Award.

The winner will be announced June 22 in Las Vegas.

4 sports

Canucks preview

Hawks at Canucks
7 p.m.
TV: CBC
Radio: AM 1040

Chicago (1-3) kept its playoff hopes alive with a lopsided 7-2 home victory Tuesday night. They took control of the contest in the second period, outscoring Vancouver 4-0 for a commanding 5-1 lead heading into the final frame. Dave Bolland, returning after missing 17 games with a concussion, had a goal and three assists.

Roberto Luongo is expected to get the start for Vancouver (3-1) after being pulled from Tuesday night's 7-2 loss in Chicago. Luongo left the game in the third period shortly after giving up his sixth goal. Daniel Sedin registered one of Vancouver's two goals, giving him four in as many games thus far. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jeff Halpern

Halpern set to return for Habs

Jeff Halpern was skating on the wing at the Montreal Canadiens practise Wednesday, but where they may need him most is in the faceoff circle.

The 35-year-old looks ready to return after missing the final four games of the regular season and the first three of the playoffs with an undisclosed injury.

Coach Jacques Martin, true to form, would not confirm that Halpern will dress for Game 4 Thursday night at the Bell Centre.

Montreal leads the best-of-seven series 2-1, but is coming off a 4-2 loss at home Monday night.

"It's a call we'll make (Thursday)," said Martin. "He's an experienced player who played a major role in our penalty killing. He's a smart player who brings a lot of leadership to the dressing room."

Halpern says he has fully recovered.

"I feel good, we'll see what the coaches decide," he said.

He skated on what should be the team's top checking line with rookie centre Lars Eller and veteran Travis Moen, with the slumping Benoit Pouliot looking like he will be the one who comes out of the lineup.

Halpern led the Canadiens with a 56.9 per cent success rate on faceoffs this season and may end up taking many of the draws. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Miller wills Sabres to win

Becomes first Buffalo goaltender since Dominik Hasek to register two shutouts in one series ◐ Flyers lose centre Carter with possible knee injury

RICK STEWART/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Ryan Miller of the Buffalo Sabres deflects a shot by James van Riemsdyk of the Philadelphia Flyers Wednesday night.

Ryan Miller made 32 saves for his second shutout of the playoffs and the Buffalo Sabres beat the Philadelphia Flyers 1-0 on Wednesday night to even the first-round playoff series 2-2.

Jason Pominville scored at 9:38 of the first period to help the Sabres rebound from two straight losses.

It was Miller's third career playoff shutout and second of the series after he stopped 35 shots in Buffalo's 1-0 victory in Game 1.

1	0
SABRES	FLYERS

Miller's best stops came in the final nine minutes. First, there was his glove save in stopping Danny Briere, who was set up alone in front. A few minutes later, Miller reached back with his stick to prevent Mike Richards from slipping a shot into an open left side.

The series shifts to Philadelphia for Game 5 on Friday night.

Flyers goalie Brian Boucher was sharp, too, in stopping 28 shots.

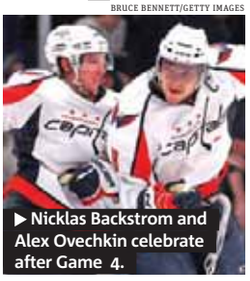
Boucher has allowed only four goals on 87 shots since replacing rookie Sergei Bobrovsky in the first period of Philadelphia's 5-4 victory in Game 2 on Saturday.

The only goal Boucher allowed Wednesday was through no fault of his own as Pominville completed a nifty tic-tac-toe passing play in front of the net.

Tyler Ennis started it from the end boards with a blind backhand pass to Rob Niedermayer to create a 2-on-1. Niedermayer fed a pass through the crease to Pominville, who redirected it in the open right side. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Capitals' rally stuns Rangers

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Nicklas Backstrom and Alex Ovechkin celebrate after Game 4.

Jason Chimera scored 12:36 into the second overtime, and the Washington Capitals completed a three-goal comeback to beat the Rangers 4-3 and push New York to the brink of elimination Wednesday night.

New York scored three times in the second period to make it 3-0 and looked ready to head back to Washington even in the series for Game 5. Now the Capitals can advance to the second round with a win.

4	3
CAPITALS	RANGERS

Alexander Semin started Washington's rally, and Marcus Johansson scored twice in the third to make it 3-3. The Rangers built their lead on goals by Artem Anisimov, Marian Gaborik and Brandon Dubinsky. Henrik Lundqvist made 49 saves in the loss. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Double-OT loss has Lightning on brink

3	2
PENGUINS	LIGHTNING

James Neal scored 3:38 into the second overtime to give the Pittsburgh Penguins a 3-2 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning in Game 4 of their first-round playoff series Wednesday night.

Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 29 shots — 12 of them in the extra periods — to help the Penguins take a commanding 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference matchup. Game 5 is Saturday in Pittsburgh, with the Lightning needing a victory to stay alive.

Neal gathered a loose puck along the boards and sent the winning shot past goalie Dwayne Roloson, who had 50 saves for Tampa Bay.

Martin St. Louis scored late in the second period and Sean Bergenheim added his first career playoff goal with less than four minutes remaining in regulation as Tampa Bay rallied from a 2-0 deficit for the second straight game against Fleury.

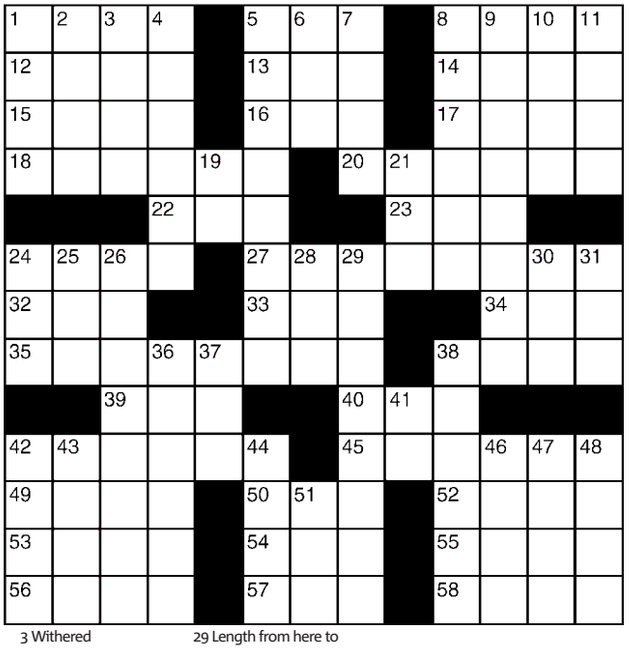
But unlike Game 3, when Pittsburgh's Tyler Kennedy countered with the winning goal just 31 seconds after the Lightning tied it, Tampa Bay took this one into overtime.

The Lightning failed to take advantage of a power-play opportunity in the first OT, and got off only one shot in the second extra period before Neal ended it with his first goal of the playoffs.

Kennedy and Arron Asham scored, building Pittsburgh's 2-0 lead in the first 23 minutes of the game. It looked as if the Penguins might be able to hold on when they killed Tampa Bay's last two power-play opportunities of regulation to cling to a 2-1 lead. But Bergenheim's shot trickled through with 3:17 left in the third to even it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crossword



Across

1 Larger portion
5 Belle of the ball, maybe
8 Enos' grandpa
12 Conception
13 Wrath
14 Missile shelter
15 Standard
16 Bando of baseball
17 Despot
18 Saw things in the dark?
20 Sleeping sickness carrier
22 Mainander's memento
23 Slip up
24 Green gem
27 Full exposure
32 "The Greatest"
33 Helgen-berger series
34 "Barney Miller" actor Jack
35 Periods of relief
38 Mail carrier (Abbr.)
39 Hall-of-Famer Williams
40 Stannum
42 Not digital
45 Impact
49 For fear that
50 Novelist Radcliffe
52 Colorful fish
53 Appointment
54 Fond du —, Wis.
55 Toy block name
56 Lacked originality
57 Candle count
58 Skittish wildlife

Down

1 Have an objection
2 Stench
3 Withered
4 Mexican entree
5 Separate
6 Detergent brand
7 Region
8 Toward the rear, nautically
9 Woe
10 "Oh, woe!"
11 Still others
19 Yours truly
21 Witness
24 Mayo container
25 Hearty brew
26 Aversion
28 Work with
29 Length from here to there
30 Bribe
31 "Help!"
36 Struck repeatedly
37 Altar affirmative
38 Open out
41 In that case
42 "M*A*S*H" star
43 Tide type
44 Festive
46 Duel tool
47 Zoo structure
48 Hammer-wielding deity
51 Kvetch

▶ Yesterday's answer

M	A	I	L			I	F	S		P	S	A	T
I	P	S	E			A	D	O		A	N	N	E
C	O	L	D	S	N	A	P			R	A	T	A
A	D	A	G	E			H	A	M	P	E	R	
			E	X	A	M		C	A	B			
D	E	B	S			T	I	E	R		E	S	S
A	R	E		M	O	X	I	E		A	H	A	
B	R	A		A	P	E	R		A	N	E	W	
		N	A	M		D	E	A	L				
M	A	P	L	E	S			B	A	S	S	O	
I	D	O	L		P	O	L	E	S	T	A	R	
S	A	L	E		A	N	Y		K	A	N	E	
O	M	E	N		T	E	E		A	Y	E	S	

Sudoku

	5	3	6		8	4	2	
6	7						1	9
		4	7		1	6		
	8			6			9	
		7	2		9	5		
7	1						4	3
	2	8	9		3	1	6	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

9	3	7	1	5	8	6	4	2
6	2	5	3	9	4	8	1	7
4	1	8	7	6	2	9	5	3
7	5	9	4	2	1	3	8	6
8	6	2	5	3	7	4	9	1
1	4	3	6	8	9	2	7	5
2	7	1	8	4	3	5	6	9
3	8	6	9	1	5	7	2	4
5	9	4	2	7	6	1	3	8

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Olu, I want you to know how much I appreciate you, your hard work doesn't go unnoticed. You bring so much love and joy into my every day, I couldn't do this without you. My soulmate, you make my heart smile. **FROM BELLA**

LAUREN, I love you so much. Thank you for two perfect years. Will you go to prom with me? **FROM LIAM**

Little YumYum
You mean so much to me I cant even put it into words. I love you so much babe, I cant wait to see you today! Thank you for always being there. **FROM CAT**

MRP
weeks we're apart just aren't so good. being away from you turns me into a total puppy child. **FROM @LUCKYJODI**

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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 As Venus, planet of harmony, moves into your sign, you will be more charming than usual.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 What you think is a problem isn't much of one at all. Try not to get worked up about it.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Sort out your thoughts and realize that you exaggerated the importance of recent events.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You'll enjoy your work today. As such, you'll do a good job.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 You don't have to take life too seriously. The purpose is to have fun.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Do you feel someone is cheating you? Most likely, it's just your fears getting the best of you.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 It's a great day for affairs of the heart. Put away anger. Love makes the world go 'round.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 If you need a break take one, no matter how much others try to persuade you not to.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 A little charm will go a long way over the next 24 hours.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Forget about getting even with your enemies. Turn them into friends instead.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Something you hear might make you look at certain people in a different light.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. Don't worry about cash. You'll find ways to make ends meet.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

VADIM GHIRDA/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DARKO VOJINOVIC

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